THE FARMERS' CABINET,

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMY

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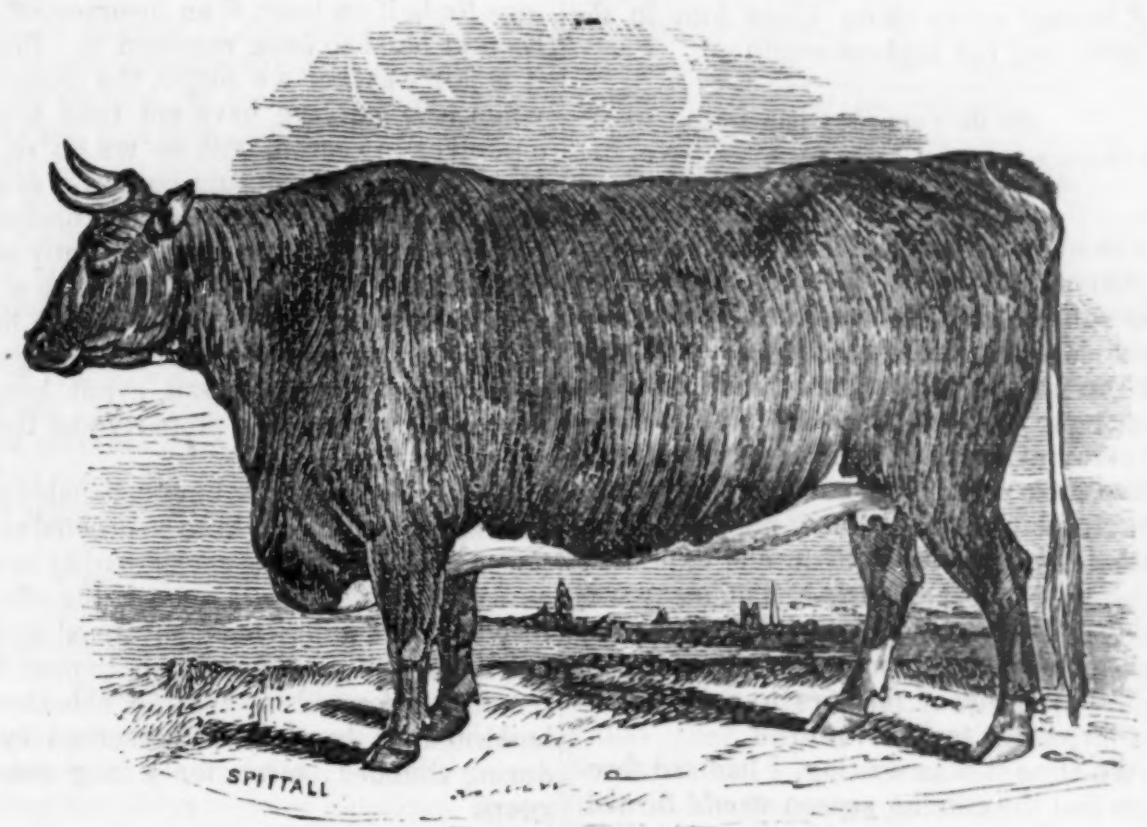

The Celebrated Heifer Columbiana.—Fig. 2.

In our July number we had the pleasure of presenting to our readers striking portraits of the Mammoth oxen raised by Mr. Tonkin, of Clarkesborough, near Woodbury, N. J. Above we give an admirable likeness of a no less celebrated animal, a spayed heifer, raised by Col. Joseph Paxton, of Catawissa, Columbia Co., Pennsylvania. This splendid animal is five years old past, half Durham, and weighs upwards of *three thousand pounds*. She was sold by Col. Paxton to her present owner, in June last, for one thousand dollars, and was exhibited during the early part of the month of July at the White Horse, in Bank Street, but has since been removed to the Lamb tavern, in Broad street, a short distance from the city, where, we understand she will remain during the hot weather. The operation of spaying was performed when she was two days old. She is perfectly docile.

We have been kindly furnished with the following particulars:

Col. Paxton's spayed heifer Columbiana, 5 years old past—half Durham—weight upwards of 3000 lbs.—sold for $1,000. Distance from tip to tip of her horns, 19 inches—height 5 feet 4 inches—girth, 8 feet 9½ inches—length from nose, over the head to the insertion of the tail 11 feet 4 inches. From brisket to shoulder 4 feet 11 inches.

We are pleased that Col. Paxton has identified her with the County in which she was raised, by giving her an appropriate name. This is right, and we hope will be followed by all who, from any peculiar excellence, may be induced to give particular names to animals of their raising. The number of fine cattle raised annually in the United States, is large—much larger we believe, than is generally conceived. And it argues well for the future, that gentlemen of intelligence and enterprise, in all sections, are zealously engaged in improving

the breed of cattle. From the laudable spirit that is now pervading the agricultural community, in this respect, the best results may be anticipated. And the time is not far distant when good farmers generally, will esteem animals of inferior breed, such as do not possess the requisite points, according to their merits,—of little worth. The time has come when every farmer who studies his own interest will look well to his stock as well as his farm, having every thing about him in the first order and the highest condition.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Insurance against Loss by Fire.—No. 2.

Let the thunder teach thee.

On the day of our National Independence celebration, I wrote for the Cabinet an essay on the subject of farmers effecting insurance against loss by fire, which was published about the middle of that month and distributed amongst your ten thousand subscribers.—How many of them were induced from reading it to seek security at so cheap a rate as was there pointed out I know not; but many *admitted the importance* of it, and expressed surprise that it *cost so little.* The essay was re-published in many papers in various parts of the country, with comments calculated to draw the attention of farmers to a subject so vitally important to their interest.

At the time it was writing, I had sad forebodings that the coming season would furnish strong practical arguments in favor of insurance, and it now appears that more than a dozen barns have been consumed within four weeks from the time of that publication, within a distance of thirty miles of Philadelphia, but I have not learned that one of them was insured. A valuable barn in Delaware county, *had been* protected by an insurance for $3000, which was suffered to expire, perhaps through forgetfulness, a short time before it was burned; another in New Jersey had been surveyed for insurance, but it was consumed before the premium was deposited. It would be useful if editors of country newspapers would carefully collect and publish all the facts relative to fires in their respective counties, particularly noticing the amount of property lost, and inform whether or not it was insured.

Considering that an honest man ought to *practice* what he *preaches*, I had insurance effected on a house and barn; $1000 on each, the former at two and a half per cent. and the latter at three and a half, making in all sixty dollars deposited; the expense of survey, (being some distance from the city where the office is) was four dollars, and one dollar for each policy made altogether $66. The sixty dollars can be withdrawn when I am disposed to relieve the office from the risk and re-assume it myself. The annual interest on $66 is three dollars and ninety-six cents; now where is the farmer who would not be willing to pay this amount to protect his house and barn from the contingency of fire for a year. I think there are but few who would not have been willing to have lugged out a five dollar bill, during one of the late thunder storms to have paid for security for his buildings for half an hour, if an insurace office had been at hand to have received it. But when it is fair weather we forget the danger, and when it is foul, we have not time to protect ourselves in season, and so we go on, from year to year, considering ourselves as safe as our neighbors, who are equally unprotected. Every one of those who have recently suffered such severe loss from fire, and some of them it is understood are entirely ruined, thought themselves as safe as any of their neighbors a short time before the sad event happened, which destroyed their property and their fair prospects.

Lightning rods are unquestionably a valuable security, and ought to be erected to every house and barn that is considered by its owner as worth the expense; some of the offices refuse to insure unless at an advanced rate without them, and an old and experienced farmer recently informed me that he considered his buildings to have been preserved by them during thunder storms for a long course of years.

If an act of the legislature was passed to make each county in the state the insurer against fire of each and every building in it, it would scarcely increase our county tax one cent in the hundred dollars, each year, on an average. It could be effected on the following plan, viz.: Render it obligatory on the assessors, at each triennial assessment carefully to value the buildings separate and distinct from the land at a fair and reasonable valuation; then if there be a loss sustained by fire without the improper agency of the owner, should it be total, let the county treasurer be directed to pay, say two thirds of the amount at which the building was assessed, to the loser. If the loss be only partial, let the county court appoint appraisers to assess the damage to be paid. Manufactories, where the risk of fire is greater than ordinary, should, perhaps, receive a less amount, say one half the assessed value of the building. On this plan, the details of which should be very plain and simple, every freeholder would be an *insurer* and *insured*, and certainly at a cheaper rate than insurance can now be effected, cheap as it is, inasmuch as there would be no extra expense whatever, connected with the system, as the county treasurer's salary, or assessor's compensation need not be increased in conse-

quence of it. Perhaps there may be objections to this plan that don't occur to me. I therefore throw it before the readers of the Cabinet for examination and investigation, my only object being to have every person's property in the community protected by insurance from loss by fire, so that even *heedlessness* cannot prevent an owner from deriving all the benefits which the careful and thrifty enjoy by being prompt in action in securing their best interests.*

I would suggest in conclusion that a man's credit is considerably enlarged by having his property insured, as those who loan him money, or sell him on a credit have much better security for its repayment. A person who every hour of his life is in danger of being made an insolvent debtor by the operation of fire, it is not very safe or prudent to trust; and many money lenders understand this so well, that they uniformly have no money to lend on real estate, unless it is adequately insured and the policy transferred, and I have known several cases where this circumspection has saved borrowers from absolute insolvency when the buildings have been burned, but

A word to the wise is sufficient;
And a fool, who can instruct.

August 16th, 1838. FIRE.

Observer.---No. 15.

REMARKS ON INSURANCE AGAINST LOSS BY FIRE.

A writer in the last Cabinet, after recommending the advantages of insurance against loss by fire, asks—"Why, then, remain without insurance for a single week?"—He however answers the question himself and correctly too when he says "it is attended with too great an expense to justify it."

The answer thus given is designed for those who have not examined and do not understand the subject. "But let us examine this matter of expense, and see what it amounts to."—From his own data the expenses for insuring a barn worth one thousand dollars would be

Making survey and contract, say	$3.50
Premium 35 dollars—say interest	2.10
Deduction of 5 per ct. in premium	1.75
Cost of insurance for one year	$7.35

The first and third items of expense only occurring once, reduces the cost in proportion to the number of years the contract is allowed to stand. Thus in a contract for ten years it would be reduced to $2.62½. The writer has indeed excluded these *small* items from his estimate altogether, and fixed the annual expense of insurance for a barn worth $1000 at $2.10. He seems hardly willing to accept the boon so *cheap; "it seems too cheap and could not be afforded for so small a pittance unless an office had a large number of such risks,* for the deposits made on a very large number of risks put to interest produces a large sum in the form of interest, and this enables the insurers to make good their losses and save something besides." Now the "risk" or chance of loss may be against either the *insurer* or the *insured.* If the risk is against the *insurer,* it is difficult to discover how a very large number of such risks would enable him to make good the losses and save something besides. If the risk is against the *insured* it is as difficult to discover how he is to be benefited by the contract. The fact is—insurance is a *speculation—a game of chance—a species of gambling,* in which the chance of the game is *always* in favor of the insurer and against the *insured.* It is a kind of *lottery,* wherein the *insured* pays to the *insurer* not only all the *remunerating fund* which they are to receive back in case of loss—but they also pay the whole *expense* of the policy and furnish the *profits of the game beside.* Just so of lotteries, the purchasers of the tickets pay all the *prizes*—defray the *expenses* of the scheme and also the profits of the game.*

There is probably no class of the community more exempt from the charge of *gambling* than farmers—honest industry and domestic economy are their distinguishing characteristics. It is the more to be regretted that they should engage in the insurance speculation. An appeal to facts will sustain me in the foregoing remarks.

The township where I reside probably contains about 175 barns, and there has only been one such building burned within the last 26 years—nor is it believed that such casualties have been more frequent in other towns near. I will however assume 20 years as the average period in which one barn will be destroyed by fire out of 175.—Or one out of every 3500 in each year. Admitting the value of these barns to be $1000 each, the risk to the insurer would be

As 3500 : 1 : : 1000 : .285 or 28½ cents for each building.

If the foregoing 175 barns were each insured for *only one year* at the admitted cost of $7.35 each, the company would receive the enormous sum of $1286.25 annually, or $25,725 during the 20 years in which one barn is supposed to be burned, leaving $24,-725 as the *savings of the game.* But even this deduction need not be made, for the interest accruing on the annual receipts would more than liquidate the losses which would be sustained.

Instead of insuring for one year—suppose the insurance to be perpetual. Even throw away collateral expenses and bring the cost

* See page 71.

* See page 71.

down at once to $2.10 on each barn as the writer in question has done. Then the insured will pay $367.50 annually, or $7,350 for a security of $1000 during the 20 years. Even from his own showing then the chances are more than *seven to one in favor of the insurer*, and consequently more than *seven to one against the insured*. This explains how "a very large *number of risks* enables the insurers to make good their losses and *save something besides*." Farmers, beware—let not the *plausibilities of interested speculators* deceive you.

Without some kind of assistance many of those who are exposed to loss by fire would be involved in inextricable difficulties if their buildings should be lost. Even the more affluent might often find it difficult to replace their loss without immediate aid of some sort. This is so generally understood that the community as by common consent has adopted the benevolent plan of assisting such as sustain loss in this way by voluntary contribution,—a plan far more economical and less objectionable than that of insurances. Yet there are many who do not feel themselves to be objects of charity, and whose tender minds are scrupulous about receiving aid in this way.* The tax is moreover very unequal, and the relief uncertain. A man may receive much more than he had lost, or fall short of the assistance which he needs. It therefore remains to be a *desideratum* to devise a plan which will be equal in its operations without requiring an unnecessary expenditure as affording a temptation to speculate on the misfortunes and liabilities of others. Such a plan I will venture to propose in brief outlines.

1. Let property holders form neighborhood associations for the purpose of mutual protection against loss by fire, each member paying a small sum, say 25 cents, to form a contingent fund to defray the expenses of the company.

2. Let a fair valuation be assessed on the buildings of the members—subject to an annual adjustment—and when any unusual liability to fire exists, let the amount of the risk be added to the assessment.

3. When any building so valued and assessed shall be consumed or injured by fire, let the managers forthwith levy a *pro rata* tax on the members of the company sufficient to remunerate the loss.

The plan proposed would answer all the purposes of insurance with very little of either trouble or expense beyond the actual loss sustained.

New Garden, 7th mo., 21st, 1838.

*A worthy farmer in this neighborhood recently returned the subscriptions which he had formerly received to replace the loss of his barn, with sincere thanks to the contributors for their assistance.

On the Varieties, Properties, and Classification of Wheat.

(Continued.)

ON THE CHOICE OF SEED.

The usual mode, with the generality of farmers is to procure any seed, that any neighbor, enjoying the reputation of being a good farmer, may have to sell. A more intelligent class take care to procure their seed from a distance, to require that it is fine, perhaps even pure; they also have thought of changing or renewing their seed occasionally. A still more intelligent number having procured the best seed they could obtain, of those sorts which observation, and experience, have led them to know as being best suited to their soil and climate; have further observed, that mixtures in their crops prevented their ripening at the same moment, and have endeavored to remedy this defect, by making selections by hand, of those varieties which appeared to them to be similar, and thus have greatly, and manifestly, improved their crop in produce and quality.

A few farmers have proceeded a step further, and from having observed a stray ear of apparently unusually prolific habits, have judiciously set it apart, and have raised a stock from it. Hence the Hedge Wheat, Hunters, Hicklings, and twenty more, that might be named; but it is contended that it is not sufficient, merely to have grown them pure for a short time; it is necessary to keep them permanently so, if after a comparative examination, as to their relative produce in grain and meal, they shall be proved to be the best; or otherwise, to discard them for more valuable varieties.

This was the chief consideration which led me to make comparative experiments, in order to obtain the best seed.

Hence, as a first step towards improvement Professor La Gasca, having shown me four ears of those he considered the most productive, I sorted as many as I could collect, of precisely the same varieties, judging by their external appearance.

Such was my anxiety to attempt to raise a pure crop, that, in the month of November, 1832, I rubbed the grains from each ear, of all the four sorts I had selected, throwing aside the damaged or ill-looking, and reserving only the plump and healthy.

The first selection was apparently one wholly of a Dantzic sort—white and smooth eared. In the process of rubbing, I was surprised to find that, though most of the grains were white, they differed greatly as to form, some being round, some oval and peaked, some plump but very small, some more elongated, some with the skin or bran much thicker than others. There were also many with liver-colored, yellow, and dark grains, among the white

The second sort was from a square, compact variety of wheat, the grains being very plump, round, of a coffee-like form, very thin skinned and white. There was a pale red inferior variety among it, much thicker-skinned, but without any perceptible external appearance in the ear.

The third, was a downy or hoary variety, one of the "Veloutes" of the French and "Triticum Koeleri" of Professor La Gasca; a velvetty or hoary sort, which is supposed to be very permanent in its duration, as relates to keeping pure. I found, moreover, that there were a few red grains, some yellow, and some liver-colored sorts among this, in small proportions it is true, but being of prolific habits, subsequent experience has taught, that they would soon have destroyed the purity of the crop, if cultivated without constant attention.

The fourth selection was from a variety of red ear with yellow grains, more peaked than the "Golden Drop;" these were all plump and well grown, but though of productive habits, afford less flour and more bran than the white varieties. I discovered a red variety among it, bearing white grains, which I suspect to be very prolific and hardy. I gave a sample of it to Sir John Sinclair, who greatly encouraged me to prosecute my researches, as being of the highest importance. There were also red ears, bearing liver-colored grains, but these were chiefly lean and ill-grown.

I generally, but not invariably, found, that the grain of white wheat was the plumpest, or possessing the greatest specific gravity, or largest quantity of meal, a subject to which I shall devote a short chapter.

The aspect of the grain in that dry season, led me to suspect, that white sorts of wheat will succeed best on dry soils and in warm climates, and that red and yellow, or the darker colored, prefer wet seasons or moist soils.

The care I took in making these selections, and the great number of sorts I found, of all shades and colors, forming varieties and subvarieties, as they are named by Professor La Gasca, confirmed my conviction, that the only chance of having pure sorts, was to raise them from single grains, or single ears.

It is but fair to add, that even the pains I took in making those first selections, amply rewarded my labors, as the produce of my crops was increased from an average of about twenty-three or twenty-five bushels an acre, to about thirty-four, and since I have raised wheat from single ears or carefully selected sorts, I have increased my crops to between forty and fifty bushels the acre. Hence, I have no doubt, that with extreme care, in obtaining the best and most suitable sorts of wheat, that land in high tilth, with fine cultivation, may be made to produce sixty or seventy bushels the acre.

Columella, while recommending much attention to be paid in choosing seed, says: "I have this further direction to give, that, when the corns are cut down, and brought into the threshing floor, we should even then think of making provision of seed for the future seed-time; for this is what Celsus says—"where the corn and crop is but small, we must pick out the best ears of corn, and of them lay up our seed separately by itself."

"On the other hand, when we shall have a more plantiful harvest than ordinary, and a larger grain, whatever part of it we thresh out, must be cleansed with the sieve; and that part of it, which, because of its bulk and weight, subsides, and falls to the bottom of the sieve, must always be reserved for seed; for this is of very great advantage, because unless such care be taken, corns degenerate, though more quickly indeed in moist places, yet they do so also in such as are dry. Nor is there yet any doubt, but that from a strong seed, there may be produced that which is not strong; but that which at first grew up small, it is manifest can never receive strength, and grow large; therefore Virgil, as of other things, so of this particular concerning seeds, has reasoned excellently, and expressed himself in this manner:—

> "I've seen the largest seeds, tho' view'd with care,
> Degenerate, unless the industrious hand
> Did yearly cull the largest. Thus all things,
> By fatal doom, grow worse, and by degrees,
> Decay, forc'd back into their primevous state."

Thus, we perceive, the Romans, at the period of the Christian era, were urged to be careful in the selection of their seed wheat.

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A FIRST COMPARATIVE EXPERIMENT.

Perceiving that there were so many varieties of wheat of similar external appearance, as even to baffle the experienced eye of Professor La Gasca, who once more obligingly pointed out several varieties of different colors, which he suspected to be the most productive; I proceeded to put into practice what had occurred to me, to be the only secure mode, to ensure the growth of pure sorts of wheat; namely, to grow them from single grains, or from single ears, and to follow up the plan, by afterwards sowing only the produce of the most productive, so as to form a stock.

Hence at the same time, that I grew the sorts selected by the eye, in a field, drilled near other corn, in order to secure them from the birds, thus greatly to improve the purity of my general crops, I adopted the following

method to grow the most pure, and farinaceous wheats.

The number of grains in the ears, of fourteen sorts, were carefully counted; in the smallest ear, there were twenty-three grains, in the largest seventy-four. The soil intended for their reception was a fine rich loam, several feet in depth over red clay; a bushel of ashes of sea-weed was spread over the surface, which was dug about the same depth that the plough was intended to turn the furrow, for a wheat crop. The seed having been soaked in strong brine, in separate glasses, was then dried with slacked lime, the drills were made nine inches apart, and the grains were dropped in singly, at about three inches depth, at distances from each other of from three inches, to eleven; the whole being in a square of twenty-two feet, or a perch (Jersey.)

By referring to the Table A, it should be noticed, that the rows Nos. 15 and 16, which were sown very thick, and rows 17, 18, and 19, which were sown moderately thick, about as much so, as by a drill machine, at the rate of two or three bushels to the acre, appeared above ground on the 24th of December, or in 17 days; whereas, all the single grains, of every sort, came up *two days later.* A curious, but satisfactory proof, which experiments repeated since, for the purpose, have confirmed, that the grains of wheat, when sown thickly, impart a certain degree of warmth to each other, and to the soil, which hastens their growth two or three days earlier than a single grain.

Owing either to the cold, worms, or birds, (though care was taken to watch,) or unknown causes, several of the single grains never came up, as will be seen by the column, how many died. No. 13, called "Grand Rubellum," by the Professor, or the red Lammas wheat, I believe, out of 58 grains lost 14; whereas No. 5, the Coturianum, lost none. No. 1, a variety suspected to be delicate, but one of the best wheats, both for produce and meal, from 64 grains, only lost 3. In this manner I was led to judge of the hardiness of the varieties, and I was well pleased to observe that the white, or most valuable sorts, were full as hardy as the red.

It appeared that out of seven hundred and fifty-four grains, the whole number sown singly, seventy-four never came up; a loss of one tenth, even with the care and attention I bestowed on them.

I have further discovered, that some sorts are still more delicate, of very precarious and uncertain habits.

The habit of growth of many varieties, differs very considerably; some being of a close, upright growth, others spreading and trailing along the ground; some tillering sooner than others: those in the experiment had all done so by the middle of March. On the 27th, they were hoed for the second and last time, and were afterwards perfectly free from weeds.

I was not, at that early period of my research, so attentive to the moment of flowering as I have since been; as the knowledge of that precise moment might prove the greatest importance to an intelligent farmer, there being an interval of a week, or ten days in the period of flowering of some of the sorts. Hence, a judicious selection, with due care as to the time of sowing the variety, that will soonest come into flower, would enable him, not only to keep his crops from intercrossing by the intermixture of their farina, but as they would ripen in succession, enable him also to bring in his crops in rotation, as each variety ripens, without being hurried by his whole crop being fit for harvesting at the same moment, which is now too often the case.

It may be noticed that a single grain, picked up on the high road by chance, which I immediately perceived to be of an entirely different form, and of a larger size, than any I had yet seen, though sown a week later than the others, was the first to ripen, and was cut on the 31st of July. It has still preserved its early habit, which I know, having now a small field of it.

No. 9, the latest, was only ripe on the 8th of August. This difference in the period of flowering and ripening, could further be increased by arrangement, as to exposition and soil.

The next and chief object of attention, was their comparative produce in grain.

No. 1, produced 3 lbs. 3 oz. from 61 grains, and 3 lbs. 9 oz. weight of straw, of a beautiful white color: whereas No. 14, a red variety, only produced from 59 grains, 1 lb. 10 oz. of wheat, and 2 lb. 5 oz. of straw. Here then was an immense advantage in favor of No. 1, which produced nearly double the quantity of wheat, and a third more straw—its average of tillers being ten, whereas that of the inferior sort was only six; and Professor La Gasca, it must be recollected, imagined that this last, was one of the most productive varieties, evincing the positive necessity of comparative experiments, to ascertain the relative produce of wheat, which the theory alone, even of the learned Professor himself, could never have discovered; he merely having judged from the external appearance of the wheat, its squareness, and compact form; than which, nothing could have proved more deceptive.

No. 8, a downy variety, was still more productive than No. 1, as fifty-five grains produced 4 lbs. 4 oz. of wheat, and 3 lbs. 13 oz. of straw, its average of tillers being 11: the straw of a fine color, and the sample very

A. REMARKS on an experiment made on fourteen varieties of Wheat, sown on the 7th of December, 1832. Each row contained the grains of a single ear; they had been soaked in brine for an hour, then dried as usual with lime. 27=1 denotes that 27 grains are equal to 1 scruple, apothecaries weight, &c.

'SON	VARIETY AND DESCRIPTION.	Seeds sown.	Sample.	Up.	Died.	Ripe.	No. of ears.	Average of Tillers.	Grains in best ear.	Height.		Weight of Grain.			Weight of Straw.		REMARKS.
										feet	inch	lbs.	oz.	grs.	lbs.	oz.	
1	Triticum (Dantzic) Hybridum Candidum, - -	64	27=1	Dec 26	3	Aug.5.	625	10	70	4	8	3	3	2	3	9	White straw, fine.
2	Trit. Hyb. Album Densum.—Round White, -	62	28=1	do.	7	do.	562	10	81	4	8	2	12	4	3	4	Stout straw.
3	Trit. Hyb. Album Densum.—Rubellum (reddish,)	53	27=1	do.	2	do.	556	10	86	4	5	2	12	7	3	6	Do. Do.
4	Trit. Hyb. (No. 6. c.)—Fine White, - - - - -	50	24=1	do.	4	do.	662	14	72	4	5	3	1	11	3	6	Straw very strong & thick.
5	Trit. Hyb. Coturianum.—Seedling—Fine White,	24	20=1	do.	0	do.	399	16	72	4	4	1	14	7½	2	4	Slight straw.
6	Trit. Koeleri, No. 1.—White Downy, - - - -	44	22=1	do.	4	6th	627	15	58	4	7	3	3	2	3	12	Do. Do.
7	Trit. Koeleri Coturianum.—Seedling Red Downy,	24	18=1	do.	1	do.	350	15	55	4	4	1	9	6	2	2	Coarse Do.
8	Trit. Koeleri.—White Downy, - - - - - - -	65	23=1	do.	9	do.	649	11	68	4	0	4	4	0	3	13	Fine Do.
9	Trit. Hyb.—Red Compact.—Plump Whitish, -	40	23=1	do.	5	8th	355	10	57	4	6	2	9	0	3	15	Coarse Do.
10	Trit. Hyb.—Red ear.—Whitish, - - - - - -	74	27=1	do.	7	6th	508	7	74	4	4	3	8	0	1	9	Reddish Do.
11	Trit. Hyb.—White ear.—Reddish Yellow Grain,	60	21=1	do.	3	2nd	461	8	62	4	9	2	4	6	2	9	Do. Do.
12	Trit. Hyb.—Yellow, - - - - - - - - - -	74	25=1	do.	11	1st	578	9	78	5	6	2	10	3	3	12	Straw white and stout.
13	Trit. Hyb.—Grand Rubellum.—Liver Colored,	58	24=1	do.	14	5th	380	8	59	4	8	2	7	7	2	7	Coarse.
14	Trit. Hyb.—Reddish Yellow Grain, - - - -	62	24=1	do.	4	do.	363	6	64	4	11	1	10	0	2	5	Fine white straw.
15	Sown thick from a	thk		24th	„	do.	„	„	„	„	„	3	6	5	6	10	Do. Do.
16	Pint of Seed similar	do. less		do.	„	do.	„	„	„	5	6	3	0	6	5	11½	Do. Do.
17	to No. 1, selected by	do.		do.	„	do.	„	„	„	„	„	2	0	6	3	13	Do. Do.
18	Professor La Gasca.	do.		do.	„	do.	„	„	„	„	„	2	11	2	4	12½	Do. Do.
19	White Dantzic.	do.		do.	„	do.	„	„	„	„	„	3	3	0	6	10	Do. Do.

B. RETURN of Produce in weight of Wheat, taking an average from No. 7, which had just twenty-three grains sown, showing the relative weight of produce, as well as the total weight of the 14 sorts.

NOS.	Grain grown.	Average.	Produced			Relative number.	Surplus.	Total.	Total weight of Wheat.		
			lbs.	oz.	gros.				lbs.	oz.	gros.
1	61	23= 38=	1 1	5 14	0 2	256	+ 366	= 625	3	3	2
2	55	23= 32=	1 1	4 8	4 0	253	+ 309	= 562	2	12	4
3	51	22= 28=	1 1	5 7	5 2	272	+ 284	= 556	2	12	7
4	46	23= 23=	1 1	9 8	11 0	350	+ 312	= 662	3	1	11
5	23	23=	1	14	7½	387	———	= 387	1	14	7½
6	40	23= 17=	1 1	14 5	2 0	384	+ 243	= 627	3	3	2
7	23	23=	1	9	6	350	———	= 350	1	9	6
8	56	23= 33=	1 2	13 7	0 0	262	+ 387	= 649	4	4	0
9	35	23= 12=	1 0	15 10	0 0	226	+ 129	= 355	2	9	0
10	67	23= 44=	0 2	15 9	0 0	182	+ 326	= 508	3	8	0
11	57	23= 34=	0 1	14 8	0 6	212	+ 249	= 461	2	4	6
12	63	23= 40=	1 1	0 10	3 0	256	+ 352	= 578	2	10	3
13	44	23= 21=	1 0	8 15	4 3	193	+ 187	= 380	2	7	7
14	59	23= 36=	0 0	10 15	7 1	147	+ 216	= 363	1	10	0
680 Grains produced a Total Weight of lbs. from a little more than one ounce and a quarter of Seed.									38	0	7½

C. RESULT of an experiment to ascertain the quantity of Meal, or Flour and Bran in each of the fourteen varieties under trial.

NOS.	DESCRIPTION OF GRAIN.	½ Gill Measure Weighed.			Produced in Flour.			Produced in Bran.			Total in Grinding.			Loss in Grinding.		
		oz.	gros.	grs.	oz.	gros.	grs.	oz.	gros.	grs.	oz.	gros.	grs.	oz.	gros.	grs.
1	White Dantzic—large round	1	5	28	1	0	42	0	4	24	1	5	2	0	0	26
2	Small round	1	4	50	0	7	50	0	4	34	1	4	24	0	0	30
3	Reddish Round	1	4	37	0	7	5	0	5	14	1	4	19	0	0	18
4	Fine White—longish	1	4	46	0	6	3	0	6	37	1	4	50	0	0	16
5	Fine White Seedling—roundish	1	4	39	0	6	3	0	6	20	1	4	32	0	0	7
6	Fine White	1	4	52	0	7	18	0	5	11	1	4	29	0	0	13
7	Coarse Yellow—round	1	4	50	0	6	51	0	5	41	1	4	28	0	0	22
8	Fine White	1	5	4	0	7	24	0	5	12	1	4	36	0	0	32
9	Plump Whitish—roundish	1	4	38	0	6	46	0	5	32	1	4	14	0	0	24
10	Whitish	1	4	39	0	7	20	0	5	4	1	4	24	0	0	15
11	Reddish Yellow	1	4	44	0	6	57	0	5	39	1	4	32	0	0	12
12	Yellow—round	1	4	44	0	6	8	0	6	26	1	4	34	0	0	10
13	Liver—elongated	1	4	32	0	6	34	0	5	44	1	4	14	0	0	18
14	Reddish Yellow—plump	1	4	28	0	6	28	0	5	29	1	3	57	0	0	31

beautiful, though scarcely so fine, or thin-skinned as No. 1. This produced nearly three times as much as No. 14, and a third more straw.

These comparisons decided me to attempt the future cultivation of those I had discovered to be the most productive, by a comparison of the produce of a whole ear.—From a further examination, as to the relative produce of 23 grains, of every sort, taking Nos. 5 and 7, which had but that number of grains in an ear, and by thus drawing two scales of comparison, I hoped that a satisfactory conclusion might be arrived at. Hence, the minimum, scale or number, was fixed on to compare their relative produce, from an equal number of grains. Thus, No. 7, containing twenty-three, the least number of grains in one ear, became the standard, to compare the relative produce of the whole fourteen sorts.

By following up these comparisons, it was suspected that Nos. 5, 7, 3 and 1, were among the hardiest varieties; but here their merits in some degree cease; No. 8 being the most productive, and Nos. 1 and 6 being equal.—No. 8 is also the second most productive in straw, the fourth in the average number of tillers, also the second in weight of grain, and the third in produce of flour. It was therefore believed to unite many good properties, and has proved to be a highly productive, and valuable variety, of a downy or hoary sort, with a roundish white grain, rather thin-skinned, producing very fine flour, which makes delicious white bread. It has produced fifty-one bushels to the acre. No. 1, being an ear of a fine variety of wheat from Dantzic, has also proved to be highly valuable, though the straw is so tall, that it might be apt to lay, in moist situations.

I was induced also to cultivate No. 5, being a seedling variety, not at all disposed to sport or change, producing a very fine round white sample: it has proved very productive. It produced from 23 grains more than any, but then it had the advantage of double distance between the grains, which doubtless tended to its increase. Its average of tillers was 16.

By an examination of the comparative list, B, it will be perceived, that it was easy to arrive at some sort of general conclusion, by attention to the produce of ears that contained nearly the same number of grains, and again, by a second investigation, as to their relative produce throughout the whole, to establish which were those most advisable for general crops.

The continued investigations of two subsequent years, have further confirmed me in my original opinions. I am now convinced that a proper selection of wheat is indispensable, my crops having almost doubled in produce; since I have raised seed of a pure sort. Those intelligent and superior farmers, who have already made great strides towards pure crops, by a careful selection of seed, must not expect so great an increase. To those, however, I hold out decided hopes of improvement, by the means I recommend.

It must appear obvious, from the tables I exhibit, that a farmer who would sow No. 14 on a soil which would equally suit No. 8, might be unable to pay his way; whereas, had he happened to have sown No. 8, he would have had nearly three times more wheat, and a third more straw; hence, it must be clearly seen, that in any intermixture of sorts in crops, some, as I have already stated, having no less than twenty-three varieties:—the loss of produce, as compared with entirely pure crops, suited to the soil and climate, would be in exact proportion to the number of less productive sorts so intermixed.

[To be continued.]

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Water.

A plentiful supply of pure water is above all price.

There is nothing more essential to a farmer than good water, and plenty of it. For domestic purposes, and for stock, it has much to do with health, convenience, and comfort. In many situations there is no lack of this indispensable article, but in others it is so deficient or impure as to require some artificial means of increasing the supply and improving its salubrity. Where it is obtained from wells, they should be sunk so deep as to secure an abundance during the periods of the greatest droughts, for then it is that its impurities are most concentrated. During the dry weather of autumn, when vegetation is decaying, and the springs are weak, the foul gases which are exhaled from the earth are absorbed by the water of wells, springs, and ponds, and this, acting in conjunction with the vegetable matter that is always found in water that is stagnant, or nearly so, makes a deleterious compound which is neither fit for man or beast to partake of, much less to be used for culinary purposes. Dysentery and fall fevers can often be traced to this prolific source of poison, and many valuable lives every year are no doubt sacrificed by the use of impure water, which, by proper attention to deepening and cleaning out wells and springs, would have been preserved. A well with a few buckets of water only in it, is not sufficient; every time you pump or draw from it, its impurities are stirred up, and you get a large dose of them. Some who have pumps in wells fail to secure them from the running in of foul water and vegetable matter, which always abounds in the neighborhood of springs, and by that means, even where there is an abundant supply of water, it is frequently much contaminated. Every

well should be carefully examined and cleansed annually, if you desire to have pure water for family use. Water enters largely into all culinary processes, and it is feared that many are not sufficiently aware of the danger they incur by the use of it, when in an impure state. Generally, throughout the alluvial parts of New Jersey, and the States south of it, water is obtained by digging a few feet only, but it is seldom otherwise than impure, and very offensive to those who have not been educated in the use of it. This arises from its passing through beds of marl or other strata which saturate it with impurities and destroy its salubrity. It is presumed that with a little extra trouble and expense by boring or digging through the beds of foul deposit till pure sand is arrived at, which it is believed might be easily and cheaply accomplished, New Jersey would be found to furnish as good, pure, wholesome water as is obtained in the more elevated districts of our country. The business of boring is now well understood, and can be accomplished quickly, and at little expense in alluvial deposits which are free from rocks and stones. A tin tube, or one of some other metal should be inserted to a depth which would penetrate the pure clean sand, and if this was properly done, judging from what has occurred in other countries, in many instances, an overflowing fountain of pure, wholesome water would reward the care and enterprise of those who may undertake so meritorious a work. If this was accomplished in a single instance, it would soon be repeated by hundreds of others, who would desire to be partakers of like benefits; and New Jersey, with its inexhaustible beds of marl to fertilize its soil, and an overflowing supply of the most wholesome water, would flourish beyond all former examples. In most cases, it is believed boring and tubing would cost less than digging and walling a well and putting a pump in it, and if it was properly executed it would require no further care to keep it clean. Whoever may accomplish this grand object will deserve a seat in the legislature; and if a fountain of overflowing water should crown his efforts, he might be sent to congress with great propriety as a reward for the good conferred on his fellow-citizens by his enterprise.

Cisterns are often a valuable resort to collect and preserve the water from the roofs of buildings for washing and other purposes, but they are often badly built, and when that is the case, they are a source of disappointment and vexation. They should always be round, and the bottom concave so as not to have an angle in their construction, for it is found more difficult to make them water tight if there is an angle or sharp corner in the wall. They should be built with the greatest care and circumspection, and well covered in, so as to exclude extraneous matter. Cisterns or cellars fourteen feet in depth are said to preserve an equable temperature winter and summer; when of a less depth it will vary with the state of the atmosphere. The importance of having water in a barn yard for cattle or stock need not be suggested to any farmer who understands his true interest; those who are thus supplied can best tell what they save annually by it in that most precious article, manure. Cattle should never go outside of a barn yard during the season of foddering; the loss occasioned by it in one winter would dig a well or build a cistern, and leave a surplus for other purposes, where a large stock is kept. AGRICOLA.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

Plan of a Farm—Stone Fence, &c.

SIR,—I am an emigrant from the Old Country, where a great portion of my life has been devoted to agriculture, husbandry, and rural affairs. For many years before my emigration, I had contemplated such an event with the greatest pleasure, the utmost of my wishes being to obtain 100 acres of free land, uncultivated and unenclosed—with which I might *do as I pleased.* But how differently has my lot been cast in this country. However, I still retain all my preferences for such an employment, and nothing gives me more satisfaction than to think and talk over my *old battles*, which I still hope some day to *fight again*—for

> Where is the man,
> However wretched, or however poor,
> That will not feed his mind with hope of bliss
> And happiness, reserv'd for him to prove?

In the mean time, every hour that can be spared from my engagements is spent in the agreeable employment of hearing and reading all that is doing in the agricultural world; and one of my greatest pleasures is the perusal of your interesting pages. In my book of reminiscences, I often turn to a plan of such a farm as I had hoped to call *my own*, and thinking that some of your readers might be amused with the description, I beg leave to present it for your approval. It is entitled,

"*Plan for enclosing land from the waste, and dividing into enclosures of the most convenient form and size; adapted to new lands in America.*"

A square of land, 700 yards each way, contains 100 acres, and about an acre and a quarter as space for fences: it is proposed to enclose it by dry stone walls. The outer fence to be carried first, after which, the four inner

or cross walls, according to the accompanying drawing:

16	8	16
8	4	8
16	8	16

"Plan of enclosing Land," &c.—Fig. 3.

Thus the land will, in the easiest and most convenient manner, be at once divided into 4 fields of 16 acres each; 4 of 8 acres; and a middle compartment of 4 acres, to be appropriated to the home-stall, house, barn, stables, cattle-sheds and yards, garden, orchards, and enclosures for raising seeds for the use of the farm and garden. Cultivate, at first, the 4 fields of 8 acres each only, the rotation of crops being roots, barley or oats, clover, wheat. The 4 fields of 16 acres each might, in the mean time, be top-dressed with lime, marl, and compost, and fed with cattle and sheep, to be regularly changed from pasture to pasture, upon those fields not devoted to the hay crop. When, at a future time, it should be deemed desirable to sub-divide those fields, two walls, carried in the direction of the dotted lines, will do the business most effectually, turning them into 4 fields of 8 acres each. This addition to the cultivation of the farm, will be found sufficient for some considerable time, the remaining two pieces of 16 acres each, still continuing in pasture; for the grand *arcana* of agriculture is, *to plough no more than can be well dressed and cultivated.* These sub-divisions can, however, be continued, until all the fields are square and contain 4 acres each. It will be observed, that on this plan all the fences will be strait, and the land thrown into such form as will admit of being cultivated with the greatest ease and economy.

—

Stone Fence—Proper Construction.

My decided preference for stone walls over other kinds of fence, has been produced by an opportunity of forming a judgment, to an extent which scarcely any other person can expect to be favored with; and in every case, their superiority is scarcely to be estimated. In the first place, as a writer observes, they are *major* from the day of their erection, and are most easily kept in repair, for if a portion should fall, there are the materials on the spot to rebuild it, which is but the work of a few minutes. And if, at any time, it be desirable to shorten the road from the home-stall, or to save adjoining crops from the injury of passing carts or cattle, it is only to make a temporary breach and put in a gate, which can be removed and the wall rebuilt in a very short time by any laborer on the farm. Then the saving of land is very great, as the plough might and ought to pass close to the foot of the wall, by which the weeds and their consequences are destroyed; this gain will be equal, in every year, to the interest of the sum expended in the erection. But the chief recommendation of stone fences is, in the shelter which they afford to cattle and sheep from every wind that blows, and the facility which they afford for the erection of temporary or more permanent sheds at the angles, to which the cattle or sheep may retire, and be fed under cover, in stormy weather. Indeed, in every point of view, stone fences have ever been with me the *ne plus ultra* of good management. I know that in many situations they are not to be obtained; but where stone is plentiful, they will be found the cheapest fence in the end, as well as the best by far, both at the beginning and end. The expense of erection must vary according to circumstances. I have had the work done for $2 per perch of 22 feet in length, by 6 feet in height, quarrying the stone and carrying included; while in some situations, I have given three times that sum for the same work: and although it might not be practicable, in point of expense, to enclose the whole of a farm with stone walls at first, yet, if at leisure times stones are carried to the line of the intended fence, and there deposited, to be put up when sufficient but for the erection of a single perch at a time, the work would be accomplished sooner than could be imagined, *once and for ever.* They are built, according to directions given at page 242.* I ought to say, however, that I have learned, by long experience, it is best, in all cases, to remove the surface of the earth upon which the wall is to be erected, for I have had miles of wall completely ruined by the frost of winter, which, by penetrating the surface where it had not been removed from under the wall, has lifted it up; and when a thaw has taken place, a subsidence in the same surface has done the business; those portions of the wall which have not fallen have been so shaken and twisted and displaced, that the appearance has led me to wish that it had all gone; while all attempts

* See Farmers' Cabinet, Vol. II. page 242.

at repairing have only added to the unsightly mass.

I have never erected walls less than 5½ feet under the coping, 6 feet in their whole height; if they were lower, the cattle would displace the top stones by rubbing, and many sheep would leap them; besides, in point of shelter, the foot and half on the top is worth more than three feet at bottom. Finishing the coping with mortar, in the neighborhood of the homestall, as well as at every gateway, is an excellent practice; the expense is not great, but the advantages are.

When I look upon this "Plan of a Farm," and in imagination have covered the different enclosures with heavy crops, and stocked them with cattle and sheep, I am sometimes led to believe that I am placed out of my element; but resignation is the part of true wisdom. In the mean while, when I can steal an hour from my avocations, I cross over to Jersey by one of the steam boats, make for the nearest wood, and luxuriate in the shade. But these are angels' visits, *few and far between*; few as they are, however, they are sufficient to satisfy me that the general belief, that New Jersey lies under the bann of sterility, is unjust, and I appeal for the truth of what I say, to many of the land-holders themselves, who, not satisfied with crops in succession, must have double crops—a crop of grain, &c., and a crop of weeds at the same time, the latter often predominating.

Some time ago, I saw a person earthing his corn with the plough, at the expense of his *second crop*, which had attained the height of his horse! To be sure, there are honorable exceptions to this too general practice, but it must be admitted, they show the impression of the angel's foot upon them.—The prettiest spot, and perhaps the most fertile, within the limited range of my peregrinations, is at Cooper's point, a triangular field adjoining the house, at present under a fine crop of squash or pumpkin; some time since, I saw a man with a large horse and a very small plough, cultivating the intervals between the rows, one furrow at a time, on a soil where a sharp knife and a couple of rabbits would have been equal to the task. Many of the weeds escaped the operation of the plough, which, I supposed would nave been immediately eradicated by hand; but I found, on my last visit, that they had been preserved, and in consequence of the culture which they had received, were most luxuriant, promising an enormous crop of seed and early maturity.

But I acknowledge that my present situation has advantages for which I ought to be grateful. I can, in the way above mentioned, visit invisibly my farming friends. Plough with one, sow with a second, reap with a third, pick fruit with a fourth, animadvert upon the labors of a fifth, enjoy without envy the large possessions of a sixth, and hope that a seventh will get his farm into better order, and repair his premises before I visit him again, and all this without either labor or cost on my part, according to the sentiments of that fine old song, which ought to be in the mouth of every American farmer, and which I entreat you to transplant into your pages for the use of future generations, marking the verse before the last, as expressive of the feelings contained in the latter part of this my long, and I fear, uninteresting communication.

T. B. W.

Kensington, 29th July, 1828

Farmers' Song.

No glory I covet, no riches I want,
Ambition is nothing to me;
The one thing I beg of kind Heaven to grant,
Is a mind, independent and free—

With passions unruffled, untainted with pride,
By reason, my life let me square;
The wants of my nature are cheaply supplied,
And the rest is but folly and care.

The blessings which Providence freely has lent,
I'll justly and gratefully prize;
While sweet meditation and cheerful content,
Shall make me both healthful and wise.

In the pleasures the great man's possessions display,
Unenvied I'll challenge my part,
For ev'ry fair object my eyes can survey
Contributes to gladden my heart.

How vainly, through ignorant struggle and strife,
The many, their labors employ!
Since all that is truly delightful in life,
Is what all, if they will, may enjoy.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Peach Trees.

A healthy offspring from a healthy parent grows.

It appears to me, that our peach trees have become vitiated, and that the taint has been transmitted, as well by the seed to the young stocks, as by the bud to the superstructure, for very many years past: that when the young trees are planted out into a suitable soil (one from which a forest of trees has just been removed, is always to be preferred) the stimulating nature of the decomposing vegetable fibre therein contained, prevents the progress of the disease until they have attained sufficient age and size to bear you about four crops, two of which may be good ones. By this time the soil has become so much ex-

hausted as to allow the disease to develope itself, which may be known by the curling and yellow appearance of the leaves, and is called in New Jersey the yellows. The ground should then be cleared and put under other cultivation, as it will not sustain another growth till so managed. To this cause I attribute the extinction of some, and the very great degeneracy of other varieties.—Who does not remember the fine, large, thin skin, delicious Morris' whites, so plentiful in our market a few years since—where are they now! The last I saw, two years ago, were about the size of a hulled walnut, and both knotty and bitter; they have since disappeared. A fine, large, yellow, and an early white free-stone, originating with, and bearing the name of one of the greatest peach growers in America, Mr. B., of Camden, N. Jersey, since deceased, have shared the same fate.

I would advise all who intend to commence this business, (particularly our friends in Delaware,) to obtain peach nuts from a distant and healthy district, and grow their stocks from them. Indeed, I would prefer to have the entire orchard supplied by such seedlings; but should you not have a sufficiency of good varieties for that purpose, then bud from the best into stocks thus obtained, in preference to taking them from any trees we now have; then by supplying the soil with good manure, either animal or vegetable, or both, it is highly probable our trees would continue to bear you good crops for many years to come, in despite of either the disease called the yellows, or the worm. Amygdalus.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Salt your Stock,

AND NEVER BE WITHOUT A STOCK OF SALT.

Every person is sensible of the good effect of salt on the human system; we know how unwholesome and unpalatable fresh meat and vegetables are without it. It was held by the ancients in the highest estimation. We also know the avidity with which animals in a wild state seek the salt licks, and the difficulties and dangers they will encounter to reach them; this cannot arise from accident, or caprice, but from a powerful instinct, which, beyond controul, compels them to seek, at all risks, that which is salubrious.

Horses, cattle, and sheep should be regularly supplied with salt at stated intervals at all seasons of the year, without stint. It promotes their health and improves their condition, and when they become habituated to its frequent use, there is no danger of their taking such a quantity of it as to do them injury. It promotes digestion, and destroys worms in the stomach and alimentary canal. Horses that are regularly and copiously salted seldom or never are troubled with botts or cholic, and experience has proved that it is as extensively useful to cattle and sheep.

All good farmers salt their animals, but with many it is not done with sufficient regularity, and there are many lazy, careless persons that pass under the denomination of farmers, though they are not worthy of such an honorable designation, who wholly neglect the important duty of furnishing their stock with salt, to their great loss and shame, and for such this is written,

"That what they find for their hands to do, they may do quickly." ****

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Construction of Ice Houses.

The July number of the Farmers' Cabinet contains a request for some one to furnish an essay on Ice Houses; as I have some experience on that subject, I freely communicate my knowledge for the benefit of the public.

I have erected several houses principally for the purpose of supplying the citizens of Wilmington with ice; and find the larger the house the better it will keep; and that those constructed under ground are much preferable so those built in the open air: and further that a wet, humid atmosphere is more destructive on ice than hot weather. In making an ice house you first dig a cellar in the side of a hill the dimensions that you wish to make your house; the only rule to observe in this operation is, to make the cellar so that it will not hold water. If the situation is sandy, or if you come to a vein of sand about the time you arrive at the proper depth, no further care will be necessary; but if you find a stiff clay or earth of any kind impervious to water, you must make an outlet or abandon the place.—This outlet may be constructed in several ways; if on the side of a hill, dig a drain and make it air tight by an inverted syphon; or the water may be drained into a well and pumped out, or you may sink a small shaft in the bottom of the house until you come to sand, and fill it up with stone. When the cellar is finished the walls may be made of stone, brick, or wood, to suit the convenience of the builder, always leaving a space of 8 or 10 inches between the sides of the building and the earth, to fill in with tan, charcoal, straw, cornstalks, or any other non-conductor you can get, but tan is by far the best article yet known.

Where expense is no object the cellar may be made round, and the sides of brick raised a few feet above the ground and covered with zinc, sheet iron, or tin, and some fancy ornament for the top.

A house 9 feet square in the clear, and 9 feet deep will hold 27 cart-loads, which will

be sufficient for a large family. It may be erected in a few days by any handy laboring man, with the materials that can be found upon almost any farm. Dig a cellar, say 10 feet square, and 10 feet deep, then cut small timber from the woods the proper length, and build them up in the cellar after the plan of an American wooden house, keeping the space between the logs and the earth well filled with straw; raise the building 2 or 3 feet above the surrounding ground so that the water will not get into the house, thatch the roof, and leave the gable ends open, for ice houses are often made too close at top, cover plentifully with straw and you will have an abundance of ice through the season.

If the bottom of your ice house is clay or hard earth of any kind, it will be better to put in a few loads of coarse sand previous to filling the house. There is some difference of opinion among people acquainted with keeping ice in regard to the construction of the upper part of the building, whether there should be a tight floor over the ice or not.—My opinion is in favor of covering the ice well with straw and leaving the house ventilated at the gable ends, at least so open that the gas escaping from the ice will have an opportunity of passing away.

SUBSCRIBER.

Remarks on Ice Houses, etc.

The information desired by S. W., relative to Ice Houses, is certainly demanded at a proper season; when the drought and atmospheric heat combined, not only direct the minds of reflecting mortals heavenward, to learn our humble dependence on an AUGUST POWER, but admonish us, also, to use every artificial means either to avert or mitigate the evils thereof. Should we be visited by many seasons like the present, an ice house will be comprised among the farmer's most necessary buildings,—indeed, they are found an acquisition during every ordinary summer season. There is nothing wanting but a simple, economical, and effectual plan of the building, to make them common on every farm destitute of a convenient cold spring. The plan of a building here submitted, I believe, combines economy with the latest improvements. Choose any convenient situation, set a rough frame of the required dimensions on the top of the ground; make another frame, about a foot larger than the first, placing it immediately over or around it, leaving an interstice of about a foot between the two frames. For abbreviation call it a double frame,—fill the space between the frames with tanner's bark as compactly as possible. What could be more simple? The secret consists entirely in the use of the tanner's bark—the philosophy of which is easily explained—that substance is a most perfect non-conductor of heat. The art of filling an ice house is also important. It should be done while the weather is freezing,—the ice may be put *in* in any shape, but the improved mode consists in filling up gradually with water, leaving the whole mass freeze into a solid body. The plan here described may be considered "far fetched," when the same knowledge could have been obtained from any gentleman in the city interested in the Philadelphia Ice Company. The use of ice during the hot season, in the country, will be only *one* among the many luxuries and comforts which have accumulated on the farmer's board since agricultural societies, papers, and periodicals have given impetus to our agriculture. The spirit of improvement which is now abroad in our profession, heightening our enjoyments by rural comforts, increasing our products by improved cultivation, and beautifying the landscape by rural embellishments—must eventually elevate its standard commensurate with elevated minds. The primary object of all agricultural papers being to disseminate valued information, and to afford farmers a free interchange of sentiment with each other, thus becoming familiarized and known to each other by reputation, is it not uncourteous to be deprived of this high privilege and pleasure by anonymous and fictitious signatures?

WM. PENN KINZER.

Springlawn Farm, Pequea, Lancaster County, Pa., August 10th, 1838.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Apple Pumice.

An enemy may be made a friend by proper treatment.

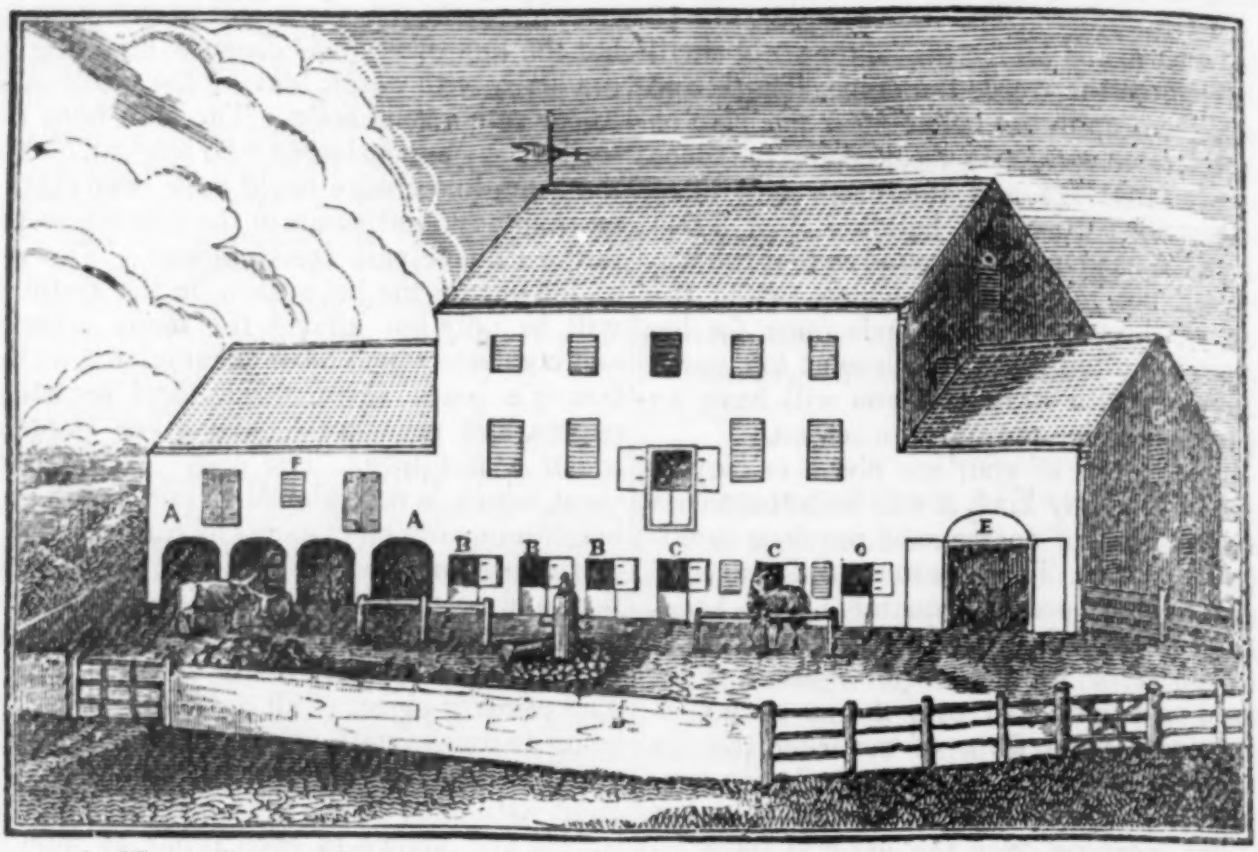
Those who desire to destroy elder bushes, or any other troublesome trees, shrubs, or plants can accomplish it most effectually by spreading pumice from the cider press about them; valuable fruit trees have often been killed by suffering apple pumice to remain on the ground near them, and a friend of mine, taking the hint from losing some fine fruit trees in this way, has made the article subserve a useful purpose in destroying hedgerows that it was difficult, yet desirable, to get rid of. It is probable that it is the acid communicated to the soil which renders it so destructive an agent. The effect of the acid may be counteracted, and the soil again rendered productive by the application of lime or ashes. Q.

Handsome feather fans may as well be made by the younger members of a family, as to be bought. The sooner children are taught to turn their faculties to some account, the better for them and for their parents.

Avoid discussing politics and religion as much as you can.

FARM BUILDINGS.

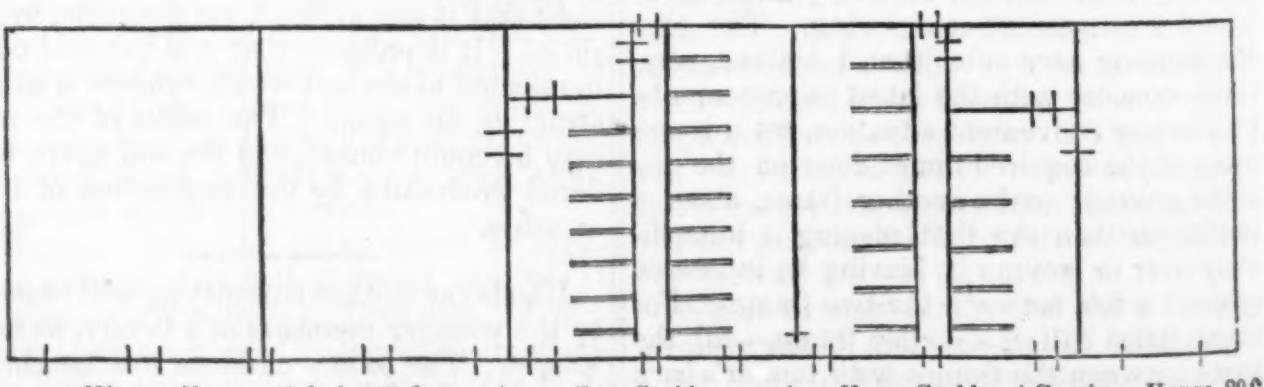
Col. Smith's Barn, Penn Township near Philadelphia.—Fig. 4.



A. Wagon House, 60 ft. by 40 ft. | B. Cow Stables. | C. Horse Stables. | E. Carriage-House, 20 ft. | F. Hay Mow. | G. Granary.

The barn which is represented by the above engraving, was built in 1834, by Col. Kenderton Smith, of Penn Township, in this (Philadelphia) county. It is of brick, 150 feet in length, by 40 feet in breadth. The main barn is three stories high and 70 feet long. The basement story 8 feet 6 inches high, and is divided into horse and cow stables. Along the front is an entry three feet wide, which extends the whole length, upon which there are doors to prevent the cattle or horses from passing from one stable to another, or from the stables to the entries. The horse stables contain twelve stalls—they are fifteen feet deep, and the stalls are five feet wide. The cow stables are 13 feet long, and the stalls four feet wide. There are sixteen stalls. At the north-west corner of the barn there is a feed-room with boxes, trough, &c., for the cattle; it is 8 by 13 feet. At the north-east corner there is also a feed-room for the horses, 10 by 15 feet. These communicate with the stable on one side, and the entries on the other. The entry between the horse stables is 6 feet wide, that between the cow stables is 5 feet. The doors are double, which serve to give light and air, and prevents the cattle from getting into the stables when it is desirable to have them in the barn yard. They are lined at the bottom with tin to prevent them from being cut by rats,—and so complete is the barn in this respect, that a rat has never been found in it.

Ground Plan.—Fig. 5.



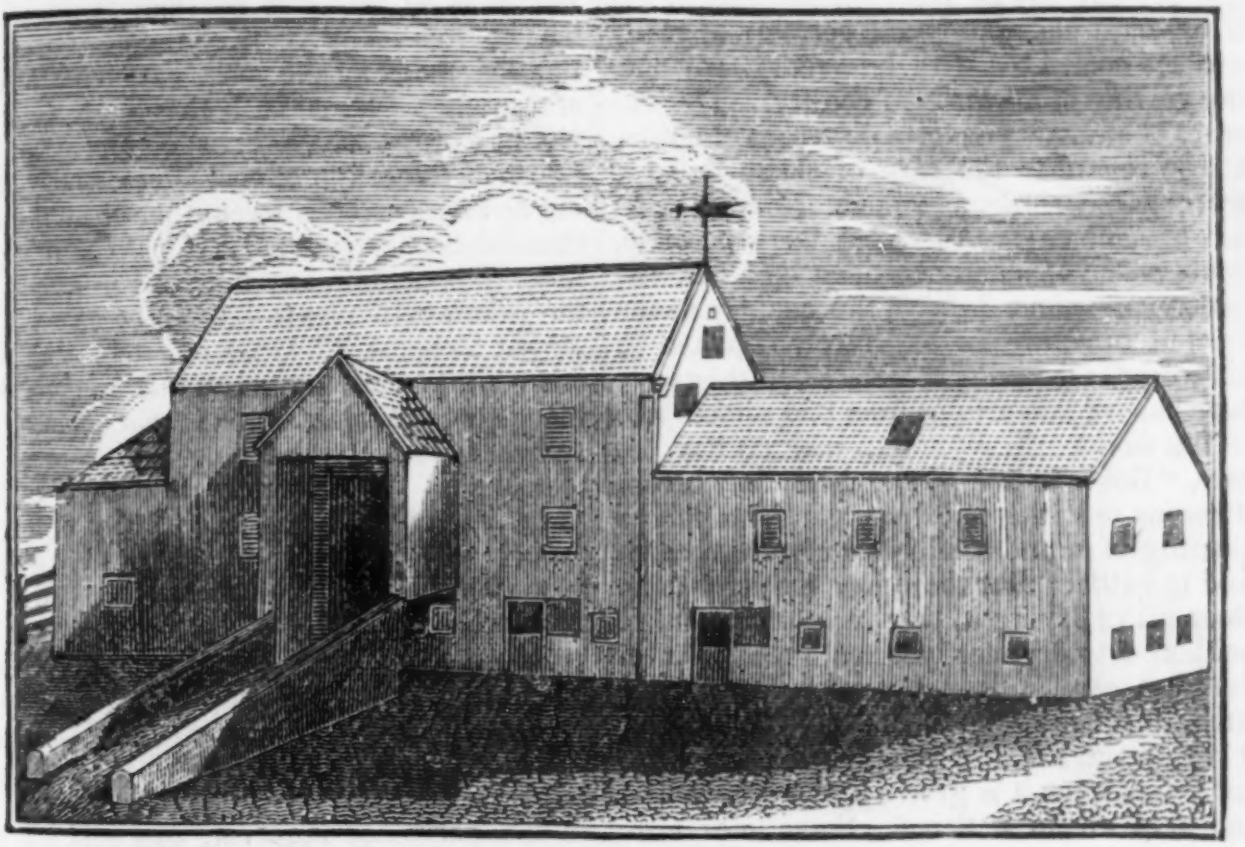
Wagon-House, 60 ft. by 40 ft. | Cow Stables. | Horse Stables. | Carriage-House, 20 ft.

The joists of the floors are embedded in broken stone, and these are covered with mortar as high as to the floor, by which means the floors are rendered more firm, and there is no harbor afforded for rats. The sills of the doors are all of dressed stone. There are funnels

extending from the tops of the mows into the entries, through which the hay for the horses and cattle is dropped. This saves much labor, prevents the barn floor from being lumbered up with hay, and the funnels act as flues to take off the foul air from the stables.

On the east of the main barn is a carriage-house 20 feet wide and 40 feet deep, over which is a granary with hatchway, block, tackle, &c. On the west of the main barn is the arched building 60 feet long by 40 deep, 2 stories high, the lower story is used for a wagon-house, and the second story is a mow, which will hold 30 tons of hay.

The second story of the barn consists of mows and barn floor. The mows will probably contain about one hundred tons. The barn floor is 16 feet wide, and is provided with a closet for tools, and funnel to pass grain into the lower story to the entry between the horse stables. There is abundant room for nine horses to thresh upon it at a time. This story is well ventilated with Venetian blinds which can be opened or closed at pleasure. There is much advantage from having them made in this way, as they draw much air into the mows when open, and when closed shut out the effects of storms. In the rear of the barn is a ramp leading to the barn doors, which open inwardly, and are contained in a house built for the purpose. This gives greater extent of barn floor, prevents the doors from being



Rear view of the Barn, showing the Ramp and House for Barn Doors.—Fig. 6.

injured by the wind, and protects the wall of the barn from being injured or pressed inwards by the earth in the ramp. The whole building is provided with gutters and spouts to conduct rain water, so as to prevent it from going into the barn yard, and thereby washing away the strength of the manure there deposited. The whole is surmounted by a lightning rod, and no farmer should consider a barn finished until this protection is furnished to his building, as it is very probable, considering the many barns that have lately been struck and burnt, that the gas from hay and grain, when in the sweat, acts as a conductor of electricity, and a rod should be ready to pass it into the ground, and thereby prevent the sorrowful consequence often visited upon farmers for neglecting this precaution.

Last, though not least, when we consider the perfect manner in which this building has been planned and finished, embracing every desirable comfort without any waste of room, and the arrangement of which precludes all waste of labor, we cannot omit to notice the flagged pavement extending along the whole front, 12 feet wide, and the pump in the centre. The horses can thus be led to water in moist weather without having their feet soiled, and the men attending upon them are not compelled to wade through mud, water, and manure ancle or knee deep, as is too often the case in many barn yards. The manure in front of this barn is always secured in square heaps, which prevents the escape of the fertilizing principle, keeps the other parts of the yard clean, adds to the comfort of the cattle, and men attending upon them, and, in a word, looks as if it was under the supervision of a man who understands his business, and is determined to have it properly attended to. The barn at the period of our last visit was filled throughout with produce.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Agriculture of the Ancients.

"Hate not husbandry, which the Most High hath ordained."

Columella, who wrote an elaborate treatise on husbandry, in twelve books, more than 1800 years ago, and which was translated and printed in England about a century since, observes, "That the bodies of cattle ought to be rubbed down daily, as well as the bodies of men;" and says, "it often does them more good to have their backs well rubbed down, than their bellies well filled with provender."

The work of Columella appears to us of the present day as most extraordinary. It treats most elaborately and sensibly of many matters connected with husbandry, down to the rearing of all kinds of poultry. The diseases of animals engage a due share of notice, and in regard to the care of sheep there is scarcely any thing new could be written at the present day. And what is remarkable, many of the common practices, opinions, and notions prevalent through the country at the present time, are so accurately depicted in his work, as to render it certain that they have been handed down to us from that remote age of the world. In regard to making hay, he says, "But it is best to cut down hay before it begins to wither; for you gather a larger quantity of it, and it affords a more agreeable food to cattle. But there is a measure to be observed in drying it, that it be put together neither over dry, nor yet too green; for in the first case, it is not a whit better than straw, if it has lost its juice; and, in the other, it rots in the loft, if it retains too much of it; and often, after it is grown hot, it breeds fire, and sets all in a flame. Sometimes, also, when we have cut down our hay, a shower surprises us. But if it be thoroughly wet, it is to no purpose to move it while it is wet; and it will be better, if we suffer the uppermost part of it to dry with the sun. Then we will afterward turn it, and, when it is dried on both sides, we will bring it close together into cocks, and so bind it up in bundles; nor will we upon any account delay to bring it under a roof; or, if we cannot conveniently either carry the hay into the manor-house, or bind it up in bundles or trusses, it will certainly be proper to build it up in ricks, whatever part of it shall be dried in the manner it ought to be, and to form them into very sharp points; for thus the hay is commodiously preserved from rains; and, though there should be none, yet it is not amiss to make the foresaid rick, so that, if there be any moisture in the herbs, it may sweat out, and be dried up in the stacks."

I have copied out the above to show the farmers of the present day what was known 1800 years ago about making hay, which you may print in the Cabinet, if it is thought of sufficient interest. C.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet

Formation of Coal—Coal Ashes.

Sir,—I perceive from the last paragraph of the article on "Coal dust," at page 14 of the third volume of the Cabinet, that the writer is of the almost universal opinion, that the origin of coal is *vegetable*. I confess I am not one of those who "know the woody fibres of all plants is composed of the same elements as the coal dust," or rather, I feel as convinced as he, that it is no such thing. The fact is, from many years of the closest investigation, aided by the most extensive means of forming a judgment, both in this country and in Europe, I have arrived at the conclusion that the origin of coal is *volcanic*. And my opinion has been strengthened by the circumstance, that neither it, nor the pure ashes therefrom, contain any nutritive principle, as the pabulum of plants—it might as well be sought amongst the ashes of pitch, or of any other bituminous substance. It is true, that the growth of plants might be encouraged and accelerated, by heaping coal dust about them, as in the instance mentioned of the blanching of the poke berry; and if "Anthrax" will take the trouble to lay only a heap of bushes on the surface of a meadow in the spring, he will find that the growth of grass is wonderfully quickened by it—but upon the heaps of coal dust upon the wharves may easily be discovered particles of the dung of horses, as well as the oats with which they had been fed, the latter growing without, to an inexperienced observer, *any soil*. I am free to admit the beneficial effects of coal dust, or its ashes, when applied to a stubborn and retentive soil, but on such it operates merely mechanically, by loosening its texture; I have no idea that it adds any thing in the way of fertility.

I am quite prepared to hear, and to be told that coal carries in its very structure and fibre, and in ten thousand instances, its woody origin, almost unchanged—"that it must be wood, and cannot be otherwise," &c. &c., but to one, who has had such ample means to form a judgment, and if you will bear with me so far as to allow me to hope, to somewhat of purpose, these appearances have been met and accounted for in a way satisfactory, at least, to one mind. My theory, I will allow, is original, and as such might be met with derision by many, but I shall await with patience the further investigation of the subject; admitting, very freely, "there are so many schemes radically absurd, and which

come to nothing, that it is difficult to assert and establish the worth of one really good," yet, "inculcating the propriety of keeping our minds open—cautiously and candidly—for the reception of new truths."

ANTI-ANTHRAX.

P. S. Sir Walter Scott ridiculed the idea of cities lighted by means of coal gass, and Lardner has *demonstrated* the impossibility of crossing the Atlantic by means of steam!!

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

The Italian Mulberry.

MR. EDITOR,—After reading some numbers of the Cabinet I resolved to cultivate the Italian white mulberry, and now they are growing finely. I see in the Cabinet several articles on the mode of cultivation, but the writers differ so much on very important points that I am at a loss what course to pursue. One says they must be planted 8 feet apart and 18 inches in the drill. Another 20 feet each way.* Others say they will serve as a hedge fence, while they produce food equally good for worms. Again it is said the limbs cut will grow, being stuck in the ground. Now, sir, this leaves me in the dark after all, and I ask

1. Is it not a different species of mulberry about which each is writing?

2. If it is the same genus, which of all the above is preferable and most efficient?

3. Will some of your good silk growers—ready writers, give us (it will do every reader of the Cabinet some good) an essay on the subject. Such a communication will be read with interest. But I hope it will designate the different kinds of mulberry, and place them in such order, with the course pursued, and the time to operate with each, that the most simple farmers can perfectly understand it. I would request that those words in an "unknown tongue" be explained, for every one has not a Latin and Greek Dictionary,—The more plain the better—the more practical, the more easy to the farmer.

Yours, &c.,

CHRISTIAN TABLER.

Production of Silk.

It is probable most persons will consider a description and illustration of the manner in which the silk worm elaborates its silk and forms its cocoon, a matter of more speculative than practical importance; yet as the naturalist and scientific culturist may be gratified with it and possibly benefitted by it, we devote a small proportion of our present number to the subject.

ELABORATION OF SILK.

The engraving Fig. 7 represents the worm in the act of throwing out the silk from the vessels in which it has been elaborated, without reference to the formation of a cocoon.—The silk is secreted in the form of a fine yellow gum, in too long slender vessels, one on each side of the body, the orifices of which are near the mouth. As the silk is ejected,

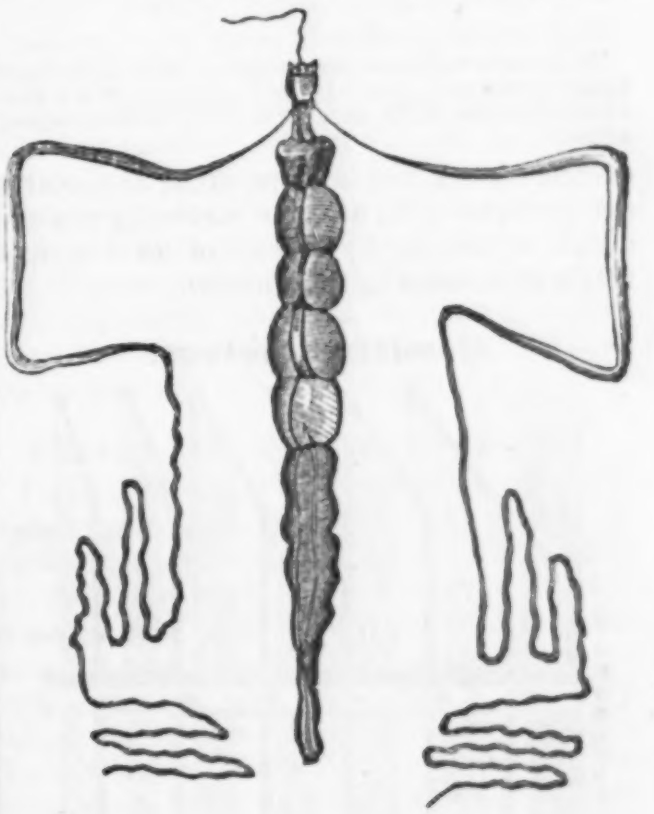


Fig. 7.

it appears to be but one thread, but is, in fact, a compound of two fibres, which are extracted from the orifices, and united by means of two hooks placed in the mouth. The length of fibre thrown out by the worm has been variously estimated. Isnard, an old writer, says it will measure six miles, that is 10,565 yards; but this is taxing credulity rather too much for the present age. Count Dandolo says, the probable length is 625 yards, and Pullein gives an average length of 300 yards.

FORMATION OF COCOONS.

The engraving Fig. 8 represents the worm in the act of forming its cocoon. Having selected a place suited to its purpose, it commences the labor by spinning thin and irregular threads, so as to support its future dwelling. It then forms upon these a loose structure of an oval shape, which is called floss-silk. In the three following days it forms a

* The distance will depend in a great measure upon the course the grower of the trees may pursue, and the species grown—those that are to remain permaneutly will require considerable distance, while those (the morus multicaulis) that are propagated for the purpose of removal in the autumn, will require much less room. We think that for permanent trees, they should be planted in drills from 8 to 10 feet apart—and from 4 to 5 feet in the drills. We recommend the communication of Mr. Stone to the Congressional Agricultural Committee, to the notice of all concerned. It may be found at page 247 of the second vol. of the Farmers' Cabinet.

firm and consistent ball, the interior of which is smeared with a peculiar gum, so as to shield itself against the rain and change of temperature. The filament is not spun in regular con-

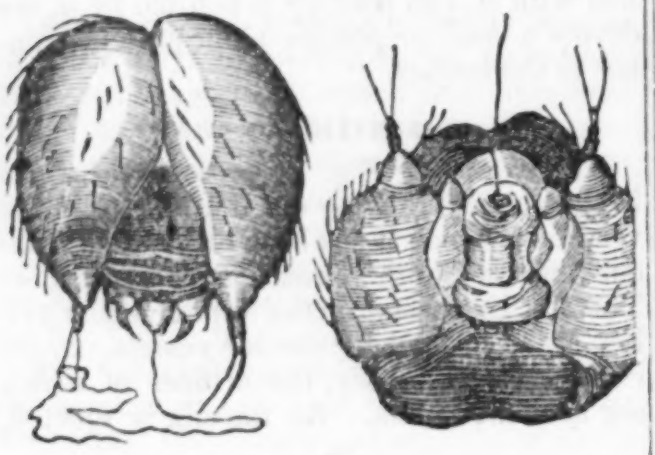
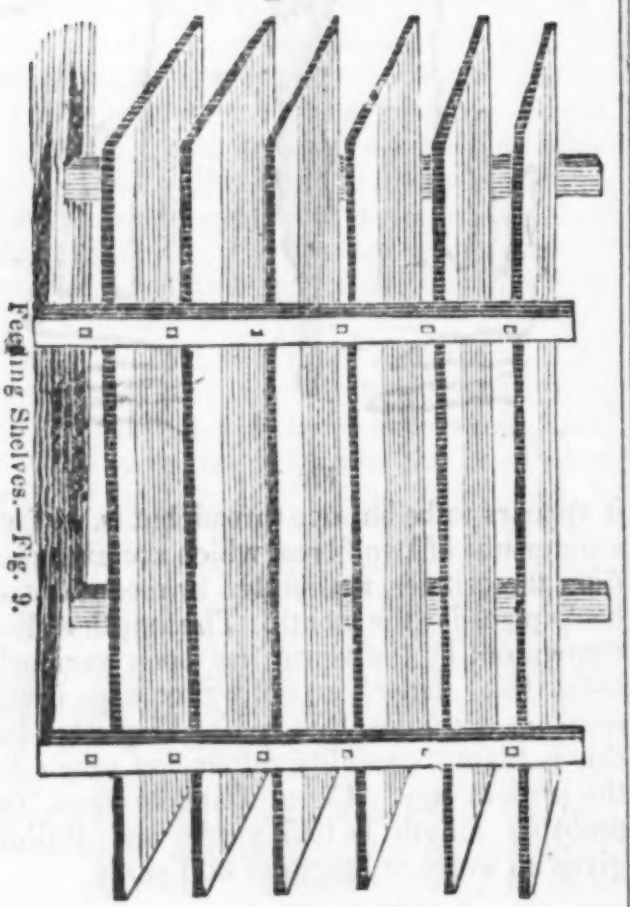


Fig. 8.

[The reader will perceive the defect in the right hand figure above, as it presents the appearance of a *square* surface on the right side. They are both precisely alike.]

centric circles, but in stops, going backwards and forwards with a sort of wavering motion, which it effects by means of its fore feet while it remains in the interior.

Feeding Shelves.



Feeding Shelves.—Fig. 9.

The engraving represents the feeding shelves, and the manner in which they are arranged and supported. We think having the shelves of a width, an improvement on former plans, as they will accommodate more worms, and their falling may be prevented by having a cleet on the sides. This may be done by nailing a thin piece of board upon the edge and letting it run an inch above the surface. The width of the shelves should be such as to render the feeding convenient, by laying in leaves on both sides. If they are to be attended by children, they should be of less width than if by adults. As economy in room is an object, it is believed a foot space between the shelves will answer every purpose. The length of the shelves will, of course, be according to the size of the room, and after the worms have finished their work, may be taken down and kept under cover for future use. With proper care, the furniture of a cocoonery may be made to last an age. —*Silk Culturist.*

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Facts and Opinions on Lime.

It was stated in the last number of the Cabinet that lime is more soluble in cold than in hot water; and it appears that a pint of water at three different temperatures dissolves the following number of grains, viz:

At 32° the freezing point, it takes up 13.25 grains.
At 60°.....11.6
At 212° the boiling point, only.....6.7

It seems that pure lime divested of all foreign matter, is wholly soluble in water, and constitutes an alkaline solution, or lime water, as it is generally termed. All lime produced by burning lime stone contains more or less foreign matter that is insoluble. Lime produced by burning shells is much more pure, there being nothing perhaps combined with them but animal matter, which is discharged by burning. The question has often been asked, how it was, that in England 500 or 600 bushels of lime could be applied to an acre of land with impunity, when in this country a tenth of those quantities is found generally to be sufficient. This is probably owing, in part, to the soil being under a higher state of cultivation, and containing more vegetable matter, but principally to the climate, which is much more moist; rain falling at more frequent intervals, and during the winter season the soil is less frozen and more saturated with moisture; consequently the solution of the lime would be much more diluted, and would penetrate the earth to a greater depth than it does in this country, where a less quantity of water falls, and at longer intervals, and during the winter the earth is often rendered impervious to water by the frost. These causes would necessarily tend to prevent the formation of the carbonate of lime in connexion with the soil and the vegetable matter contained in it, in such quantities as to prove injurious by checking the decomposition of the manure so as to prevent sufficient quantities of it from undergoing solution to furnish a current supply of food for the growing plants.

In our dry climate 500 bushels of good lime applied to an acre of our best land, would

probably convert the vegetable matter contained in the soil to ashes, or so completely coat it with a crust of carbonate of lime as to prevent its decomposition and solution, and render it sterile for years, unless an additional quantity of dung was applied and mixed with it, which is the true remedy for land that has had an overdose of lime.

Benefit has been derived from the application of lime in all the various ways and seasons it has been applied, but those who spread it on the grass sod in the fall, winter, or early in the spring, and let it remain, for one or more years before it is ploughed down, it is believed obtain much the most benefit from it. Putting it on the sod, and *immediately* ploughing it under, is the worst application of it known, as the solution of it passes too deep in the earth to be much useful. X.

Poultry.

Columella, in his book on Husbandry, written 1800 years ago, says, "that if a hen is set on the long, sharp-pointed eggs that are surrounded at the small end with concentric circles, the chickens produced from them will all be males; and that if the round eggs which are smooth at the smaller end, are put under her, the chickens produced from them will all be females." It would be a matter of curiosity, at least, and perhaps some profit might be realized from it, if the experiment was made to test it. Will some of our raisers of poultry be so good as to make the trial, and inform the editor of the Farmers' Cabinet of the result.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

On Manure—Fattening Hogs—Curing Pork and Hams.

I have perused the remarks of your intelligent correspondent W. H., of Salem county, on the subject of manure, with much satisfaction. His method of collecting materials for manure is unquestionably good. I would, however, suggest the propriety of his going still further. In the fall of the year when he has cleansed his barn yard of its contents, and the bottom is clean, which is usually about the time of cutting up corn, it would be well to take the roots of the corn from the field, with the dirt adhering to them, and deposit them in the yard, they will make a most excellent foundation, and by the process of decomposition, are converted into a most valuable manure. The other materials for manure are placed on the top of the roots, and in the way described by your correspondent. The urine of cattle, and the juices of the other manures, penetrates the heap, and the roots become saturated. The next season after the dung is taken off, which I am not particular to do very clean, and which is generally ploughed in with my oat stubble, the roots are grubbed up and thrown into rows five or six feet wide at the bottom, and four or five feet high, taking care to have the bottom where the rows are placed, previously well dug up. In twelve or fifteen days, depending somewhat on the state of the weather, I commence hauling it out. My wheat ground being well ploughed and harrowed, I spread the manure, as by this time it is completely rotted, and in this state it requires nothing but a common English shovel to load with. When spread, I plough it in shallow, and in so doing find that I add largely to my store of manure, and have my ground in good order for any crop. A person who had not witnessed it would be surprised at the amount of manure that may be made from the roots gathered from six to eight acres of corn. Awake, brother farmers,—try it,—persevere,—and let us have the results of your experiment in the Cabinet.

The roots of the corn are gathered in the following manner:—when the corn is cut up and stacked, or taken off the field, the plough is run along under the rows of roots, throwing two rows together. The harrow is then carried over the rows to separate the roots from the earth; after which, they are conveyed to the barn-yard, with so much of the soil as may still adhere to them.

Fattening Pork, Curing Hams, &c.

I am satisfied that it is "not good economy" to endeavor to make manure from hogs by keeping them up in a pen. I am convinced that ten bushels of corn, fed on a clean board, will make as much good solid pork, as fifteen fed on a dung heap—and with this additional recommendation, that the pork is perfectly sweet and entirely free from that nauseous flavor which is so peculiar to pork kept in a filthy state, and having their food administered to them in dung or litter. The greatest care must be observed. The hog is not by any means naturally a dirty animal.

I have noticed frequent inquiries in the Cabinet as to the best method of curing pork and hams. I would inform all inquirers that they cannot have good, sweet meat, unless it is both good and sweet before it goes into the tub. The best of salt cannot make bad meat good—but will prevent good meat becoming bad. In some parts of the country where I have dined, the pork served up at table has tasted so strongly of the pen that I could not eat it. So much for making manure from hogs. I have always had good pork and hams since I fed my hogs on a board floor, which is kept well cleaned.

On one occasion, I purchased a lot of Jersey pork, 2,000 lbs. It was fat and very handsomely dressed, but it lacked one essential requisite—that sweet flavor which characterizes all good pork. Subsequently, I

bought a lot of 2,500 lbs., raised in Bucks county. The hogs were fed on a clean board floor, with Indian meal; they had an abundance of water. No one could desire finer or sweeter meat. A few years since, I put up some pork fattened on sweet apples, with the exception of the last two weeks, during which time, they were corn fed; and the pork was as sweet, solid, and fine as any I ever saw. The hogs roamed at large in the orchard until I put them up to be fed on corn.

—

Receipt for Curing Pork and Hams.

As soon as the pork becomes cool I cut and sort it, taking great care to have the tubs perfectly sweet and clean. In cutting, I take out all the spare ribs, and make pickled pork of all the side between the ham and shoulders; cutting it into pieces of suitable size for family use. I trim the hams and shoulders well. I cover the bottom of the tub with rock salt, and then put in a layer of pork, nicely packed; then cover this layer with salt, and so on, until the tub is filled. I use rock salt, and very bountifully. In six or eight days make a pickle of salt and cold water, as strong as possible, and cover the pork previously salted with it. It will then keep for use for years if you choose.

In preparing the hams and shoulders, I weigh several, to come at the probable weight of the whole. They are packed with great care, in suitable tubs. My process is to sprinkle some coarse salt at the bottom; then pack in the hams and shoulders firmly, side by side, being careful not to put the back of one flat on the top of another. The spaces are filled up with chines, hocks, and jowls. To about every 300 weight of meat I take thirty pounds of rock salt, one pound of saltpetre, and fourteen pounds brown sugar, or half a gallon of good molasses, (generally the latter.) Take as much pure water as will cover the meat, put it in a clean vessel, add the above articles, boil it, removing the scum as it rises, and when no more rises set it to cool, after which pour it on the meat until it is covered 3 or 4 inches.

If the hams are small, weighing from 12 to 15 lbs., let them remain in the pickle five weeks—if from 15 to 25, six weeks—if from 25 to 45, seven weeks. When you remove them for the purpose of smoking, put them in clean, cold water for two or three hours. If there is too much salt or saltpetre adhering to the surface of the hams, the water will take it off. The smoke should be made of clean green hickory. A fire should be built only in dry weather. And when the meat has acquired a yellow tinge, not red or black, they are removed, and hung up in a dark place where they are not disturbed by flies or vermin.

David Comfort.

Byberry, 7th mo., 1838.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Theory.

No man, however much he may repudiate theory, engages in any work without first having the theory of it established in his mind. Theory precedes practice as thought precedes action. One farmer spreads his manure a long time before he ploughs it in; another ploughs it under as it is spread, and another uses it as a top-dressing, while some are particular as to the time of the moon, when dung is put on the soil. Each has his theory and acts agreeably to it, and his success is not dependent on his having *no theory* at all, but on his theory being in accordance with sound reason; for there is always a reason why one way of doing a thing is better than another. Some allege that every thing that is printed about agriculture is mere theory, and therefore to be disregarded; those who entertain this opinion certainly maintain a very unsound *theory*, and the sooner they sift all the knowledge they possess and have gained by their own individual and unaided exertions, from what they have obtained by reading and conversation with others, the sooner they will ascertain the sum total of their *ignorance*, which it is expected will so alarm them that they will see the necessity of rubbing some of the roughest of it off.

O.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Cotton.

Cotton is planted and treated pretty much in the same way that Indian corn is, excepting only, that the stalks stand separately, as it branches out considerably. It is a very delicate plant and requires great kindness in the treatment of it. It delights in a high temperature, and flourishes most under a burning sun. When the pods ripen and open, they exhibit the most beautiful sight imaginable. They ripen progressively, and the picking is continued till frost or cold weather suspends it. The seeds are found in all stages from the perfectly ripe and fully developed down to the immature, which won't vegetate. Some of the best planters who understand their true interests, have the fully ripe and perfectly developed seeds selected by hand, from the great mass, and preserved so as not to heat or ferment, for planting; carefully rejecting those that are imperfect. In this particular they act wisely, and it is said that some who pursue this plan have accumulated large fortunes by it: for plants produced from perfect seeds are much more thrifty and vigorous, and produce more cotton, and that of a finer and a better quality, than the inferior, immature seeds produced from the same plant. It requires from five to six bushels of seed to

plant an acre, and a celebrated planter of Louisiana informed the writer that he uses from fifteen to twenty thousand bushels of seed annually in planting his crop, all of which is selected by hand as above stated, from immense masses.

It is of immense importance to give grain, and indeed plants of every kind, a healthy, vigorous start when they first come into existence, by sowing perfect seed; their future developement and prosperty much depending upon it. It is therefore hoped that those who have heretofore been negligent in this particular will gain wisdom by what they have suffered, and not hereafter expect to "gather grapes of thorns, or figs from thistles."

"For what thou sowest, such shalt thou reap."

AGRICOLA.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Salt a Manure and Worm Destroyer.

"Salt is good."

Salt is much used in England and other parts of Europe as a manure with great effect, of which there are numerous well attested instances. It is put on as a top-dressing late in the autumn or early in the spring at the rate of from five to twenty bushels per acre. It is very destructive to grubs, slugs, worms, and insects which increase with alarming rapidity in all grounds where vegetable manure is abundantly applied; for insects deposit their eggs in dung-hills and other deposits of decaying vegetable matter, as best adapted to the future nourishment and developement of the infant grub or worm. Cabbages, radishes, carrots, and many other garden vegetables have of late years been destroyed in large quantities by worms attacking the roots and wounding and injuring them so as to prevent the growth of the plant; many gardeners have suffered great loss in this way during the present and past seasons. The application of salt or brine to the soil a month or two before the time of planting, it is supposed, would prevent this great mischief by destroying the authors of it. Salt in moderate quantities is well known to be congenial to all plants of the cabbage and onion tribe, independent of its worm-destroying powers. Nothing is more beneficial to an asparagus bed, and increases its productiveness more than brine or pickle sprinkled copiously over it early in the spring. The most successful cultivators of this valuable vegetable have long been in the practice of applying it in large quantities annually.

Every man of intelligence knows the advantages which result from giving plenty of salt to horses, cattle, and sheep; it promotes their health and causes them to thrive and fatten, and tends to protect them from various diseases. Horses are protected by it from worms, botts, and colic, and when they are fed with new oats, new corn, or fresh hay give them salt bountifully to correct the ill effects of such food; and if they have that troublesome disease called lampas, don't be guilty of putting a hot iron in the mouth to torture them, but give them salt to lick to allay the inflammation and alleviate the disease. It is said that cattle, regularly furnished with salt, not only during the summer months, but during the winter, and particularly the latter part of that season and the early part of spring, have never been known to be afflicted with that terrible scourge commonly called hollow horn, particularly if they have been well fed, and that with a portion of succulent food, to keep their bowels in proper order, and carefully protected from the inclemency of the weather during the great and sudden transitions of the winter and spring months.

A valuable plum tree, that stood in a corner of an asparagus bed, had exhibited evident symptoms of disease and decay for some years, when the asparagus bed being dressed copiously with pickle the tree revived, become healthy and vigorous, and has this season brought to perfection and ripened a very large crop of fruit of the finest quality. This is believed to have been caused by the salt, and it is suggested to those who consult their interests by rearing the most valuable kinds of fruits, for pleasure or profit, to try the experiment, cautiously, of applying salt or brine in moderate quantities, under and about some of their fruit trees, and detail the result for public good, hit or miss, for it is of great importance to record misses as well as hits.

It is a well known fact that peach trees thrive and do well, and live to a great age, within the range of the salt atmosphere and influence on the seashore, and perhaps the artificial application of salt in small quantities may produce the same effect in other situations. Try it and let us hear from you how it works; perchance we may discover the grand panacea, but keep in mind the wise saying of the old woman,

"That a little of a good thing, is good
But a great deal of it is good for nothing."

ABRAM.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

The Farmers' Frock or Bleuse.

SIR,—Your correspondent, at page 340, who has introduced to the notice of your readers the French frock, or "bleuse," has *deserved well of his country*, (as the old French Directory used to have it,) *and should be called to the honors of a sitting in the Cabinet.* I have worn dresses of that description for the last two years, and can join in recommending them as most convenient and economical. They are very generally worn by

persons traveling in France. In summer they take the place of coat and waistcoat; in winter over-all. At the end of the journey it is only to take them off and shake the dust from them—and in hot and dusty weather they are real luxuries. For the use of coachmen, who have often to attend to their horses during a journey, they are the *acme of perfection;* while as a loose Sunday indoor dress, to us who are destined to toil for 313 days in the year, they invite to luxurious ease, and are absolutely irresistible in their soporific effects. I find that they can be obtained at No. 14 North Sixth street, made from a pattern imported direct from France, of every texture, color, and consistency. Assuredly they must come into very general use.

J. P.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Practice vs. Theory, or the Hands vs. the Head.

"No divorce, I beseech you, my friends."

Having recently been present during a very interesting and amusing conversation between two farmers about your "Farmers' Cabinet," I will undertake to give you some account of it, or at least a short abstract of the subject matter of it. They were both good, and pretty intelligent farmers, but their views of some things, and particularly of matters written or printed in regard to agriculture were as different as the two sides of a bake-iron.—The one was descanting on the benefits and advantages of the Farmers' Cabinet to farmers generally, and now and then he read a racy article from it to prove his position; the other contended that any thing printed on the subject of farming was mere *theory*, and of no use, but rather calculated to lead people of little experience astray from the good old way of doing things that had been practised from the earliest times. He said that these printed things only dissipated people's ideas and withdrew their attention from work, and he thought were ruining our young people by keeping them thinking all the time instead of working. On the other side it was contended that teaching people to think enabled them to work to much greater advantage, and that all the improvements which had been made in the world, were the result of thinking, and that thinking was not at all incompatible with action, but on the contrary was the very base and foundation of it, and that a discovery or improvement being made, the promulgation of it in print was doing the greatest good to mankind, as it tended to keep up the equilibrium of knowledge, and enabled one man to work with the tools of another without cost. At last the contest assumed the form of a regular combat between the Head and Hands; a little on the plan of that detailed by Esop, of the quarrel that took place between the Belly and the Limbs, when the latter fairly rebelled, and refused any longer to work for a fat and indolent Paunch, which they considered as entirely useless, and unable to provide for itself. However, after a short trial, at keeping up separate establishments, finding it not to answer expectation, a truce ensued, and they agreed to go on amicably together, and found a mutual advantage in it. Now I suspect this contest between the Head and the Hands will terminate in the same way, by each returning quietly to the performance of its appropriate duty again, as members of the same indissoluble firm of "Head and Hands," each attending to its own department, while they are both working for the common good, for I should like to know what sort of a farmer a man would make either without a head or without hands. I was thoroughly convinced by the arguments of the parties, that every man in this free country has an undoubted right both to think and work, either jointly or separately as much as he pleases, and that there is not much danger of our carrying either to excess; but above all I was confirmed in the conviction that every intelligent farmer should write down the results of his experiments, and the cogitations of his mind on agricultural and rural affairs, and forward them for insertion in the Farmers' Cabinet.

X.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

Farmers' Microscope.

Sir,—Perhaps there are many of my brother farmers who do not know that they have, in the telescope, or common spy-glass, an excellent microscope also. It is but to screw off the small object glass, apply it close to the eye, and bring any object within the range of its proper focus, and they will be surprised and gratified with the result. To those, who, like myself, fond of looking into things, such an instrument will prove a very pleasant walking companion. I never leave home without it, and am often struck with astonishment at the extreme beauty which I find displayed in the formation of the most common flower, or even weed, the appearance of which, without its aid, was any thing but interesting. In botanical and geological researches, this little, simple pocket apparatus is of the greatest service; and the facility with which it can be removed and replaced, is not the smallest of its recommendations.

J. P.

Begin early, is the great maxim for every thing in education. A child of six years old can be made useful; and should be taught to consider every day lost in which some little thing has not been done to assist others.

Children can very early be taught to take care of their own clothes.

Method and punctuality are sure friends to the man of business.

Do not make too much haste to be rich.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Spring Wheat, &c.

The harvest is gathered, and now farmers rest a little from their severe labors, and canvass the results of their exertions. Among the most interesting themes last spring, "Italian Spring Wheat" was conspicuous. The name, and the good stories told of it, were in every man's mouth, and almost every one who could get a half bushel of seed prepared a place to receive it. Such high and sanguine expectations were raised that some doubted not but it would succeed almost by the "wayside, among thorns, or in stony places."—Some, however, reasoned that "good ground" would not hurt it, and shaped their course accordingly. But *all* have been more or less doomed to disappointment.

I visited eleven different lots of it, before it was harvested. Some sown on ground either recently manured, or heavily manured on the potatoe crop last year; the others sown on ordinary corn ground in the room of the oats usually sown on such land.* My own lot was about equal in appearance while growing, to the best I saw. This I threshed out immediately from the field—the yield was *seven bushels* per acre! which I think as much as any of my neighbors will have. The grain is of inferior quality, weighing 55 lbs. per bushel. Those who sowed on ground where they would have gathered 35 bushels of oats in an ordinary season, will not have more of the wheat than was put in for seed.

Here, then, is the result of the experiment. Many of us have *bought* information enough on this subject to prompt us now to do what we can to prevent certain northern speculators from again lining their pockets with the earnings of such of us as have been credulous enough to listen to the assertion that *their* wheat will make 20 bushels per acre where "oats will hardly grow." We own we don't deserve their pity.

MAHLON S. KIRKBRIDE.

Morrisville, 8th mo. 3d, 1838.

*We have of late heard much said both for and against Spring Wheat. According to the statements of a few persons it has succeeded to admiration—but the great and overwhelming mass of testimony is against it.—The failure of the genuine kind, if indeed there be any answering this description, may be attributed to the soil, climate, peculiarity of the season, or some unknown cause. We have long entertained an opinion, and have before expressed it, that the most of the wheat sold in this market during the last season as the Italian Spring Wheat, is nothing more nor less than the common Spring wheat, long since tried and discarded by our farmers. We presume that but a very small portion sold in this city under cover of Mr. Hathaway's name was received from him. His name was undoubtedly used by many to defraud the farmer. We have at various times endeavored to press upon our farmers the necessity of *saving their own seeds*. A little care and practice will enable them to do so with great advantage. The present instance is another argument in its favor. If our correspondent had sown his Spring wheat in the fall, we think he would have had a good yield; and we have come to this conclusion from facts we have gathered from farmers, that in neighborhoods where it was sown at different periods, that sowed earliest, and subject to the influence of frost, afforded a better grain and a larger yield than that sown later in the season.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

To the Sportsman.

"The race of birds was not formed in vain. Each one has his task to perform; we sin in wantonly destroying them: first, against Him who made them for his glory; then, against ourselves, willingly ignorant of their untaught 'labors of love.'"—*Injury from destroying birds—Far. Cab. Vol. 2d, page* 332.

Sportsman, stay thy hand;
Spare thou that little bird!
And o'er the fruitful land,
Still let his song be heard!
Of all the feather'd train
Who cleave the air of heaven,
Not one is made in vain,
Nor yet for sport was given.

Hark! to the robin's lay
That pours from yonder grove,
To hail the break of day,
And bid all nature move!
Hark! to the nightingale,
Whose notes at twilight come
From yon green flowery vale,
To charm the peasant home!

And see, how heaven ordains,
That birds in time of need,
With insects from the plains,
Their helpless young should feed!
That thus, the farmer's hope,
No hidden worm destroy;
That he may save his crop,
And birds their food enjoy.

And shall the sportsman's gun
Arrest the parent bird?
And leave the work undone,
It sought at nature's word?
Must harmless songsters bleed,
To please the heartless youth?
Pause, sportsman! pause, and read
The page of nature's truth!

God hears the raven's call,
And answers to his cry;
He guards the sparrow's fall,
With kind, protecting eye!
If birds are thus His care,
Who life to *man* hath given;
Then, sportsman! O, beware!
Nor tempt the frown of heaven!

E. C. S.

Cedar Brook, N. J., 1838.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Dry Rubbing.

As your publication is the receptacle of the beneficial as well as the useful, I take the liberty of calling the attention of some of your readers to a custom that may perhaps appear insignificant; but which, when duly considered, is of more importance than is generally supposed. I mean the habit of scrubbing the floors with soap and water; this operation, which is necessarily frequent, I consider arduous, disagreeable, dangerous, and always unpleasant. There is little hazard, I think, in asserting that it is the latent cause of many a disease that has terminated fatally. Can it be doubted that the cases are not frequent, where a delicate female carrying water from the pump, often barefooted in inclement seasons, standing or working for an hour or two upon a wet floor, and then perhaps sleeping in the apartment not perfectly dry, has originated the seeds of a pulmonary disorder, or some other equally distressing? I have not the least doubt that many a good housekeeper and valuable member to society has fallen a victim to the pride of having a white floor.

My object is to offer a remedy, which, if generally known and tried, would be as generally adopted, as it is far less trouble and produces a much better effect. I have often noticed buckets, kitchen utensils, &c. scrubbed with sand, but have never observed it applied to the floors. There are few houses you can enter in the south without noticing the floors; these are scrubbed with water but two or three times in the course of the year—they are what is called "dry rubbed"—in fact, it is the opinion there, that water injures the floor, it blackens the wood; therefore, it is washed as seldom and dry rubbed as often as possible, which is performed with clean dry sand and the usual brush.

The advantges of this mode are, it makes the floors whiter, produces a kind of polish upon the wood which prevents it from soiling, is much sooner done, and obviates the unpleasantness of carrying water and the slopping about the house, besides a saving of soap.

Health, Mr. Editor, is the first and most important consideration in this world. What is wealth? A fine farm? Even white floors without it? If parents bequeath to their children a good constitution and industrious habits, they give them much; the corner-stone is laid. Every means, therefore, should be employed to attain this; and I do believe if dry rubbing was customary at the north as it is in the south, that many severe colds and coughs would be prevented.

L. K.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Complaining.

A well-disciplined mind studies to be content.

In ancient times, amongst various other definitions which were given of the word man, Plato defined him to be a biped without feathers. In more modern times, in England, man was defined to be a tax-paying animal; and in this country some have thought that an appropriate definition would be that of a *complaining animal.* This thought, I suppose, took its origin from the circumstance of the general disposition apparent among farmers to complain of the current state of things, be they whatever they might. Having more or less of this complaint myself, and moving much among those who are afflicted with it, I have often had my attention turned to the subject, and on examination I find it to be a highly contagious disease, being propagated through whole neighborhoods at almost any season of the year; but it appears to rage with the greatest violence in the summer season. It is almost always too dry or too wet, too cold or too hot, for persons laboring under this affliction. Six weeks ago it was said to be so cold and late a spring that the crops were in great jeopardy; then it was too wet; next so dry as to excite lively apprehensions for the safety of the winter grain, corn, and potatoes. Following this was a considerable rain, when the grass and hay became objects of prime solicitude; and in this way we are tossed about from one apprehension to another the year round, with a very small portion of time which can be said to be enjoyed in calm, confiding composure of mind.

This state of things, Mr. Cabinet, I can testify has existed for at least half a century, and how much longer I cannot tell, for I well remember, when a small boy, to have heard these complaints reiterated almost day by day, and they have continued to be poured out at short intervals from that time to the present. Now it is said "that while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease;" and even so it has been from the days of Moses to the present time; and there is no rational ground for apprehension but that the promise will continue to be fulfilled to all future generations of men who may inhabit the earth.

What may have been the original cause of this querilous disposition, I know not, but it is very certain that the influence of education and the force of example has had a great tendency to disseminate and perpetuate it among the youth of our country, but for what good purpose, it is not easy to see; for it will readily be admitted by all, that no danger

was ever avoided, or good work effected by the operation of complaining, however plausible or rational the causes of it may have been supposed to be; but the influence of repeated and almost constant dolorous complaints of the ways of Providence in his wise ordering of the times and seasons, for this is what it amounts to, exerts a very painful and prejudicial influence on the minds of tender and inexperienced youth, by exciting apprehensions and dread of what seldom or never comes to pass; and tending to annihilate and destroy that confidence which should always be cherished and strengthened, of the immediate superintending power of the Almighty in regard to all the works of creation.

If, then, complaining effects no good purpose whatever, let us abandon it ourselves and discountenance it in others; but if it inflicts pain and suffering on the young and susceptible minds of our children, let us, for their sakes, hold our peace, and display a cheerful manliness of character befitting a Christian, under the various dispensations which may be meted out to us in our journey through life by the Author of all our mercies.

ABRAHAM.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

The Farmers' Cabinet—Sugar Beet.

MR. LIBBY,—I am a subscriber to the "Farmers' Cabinet," a paper than which none other is more highly appreciated. I read every word as the numbers arrive, and I can tell you I think it grows better and better. Upon perusing the letter addressed to you in the last number of volume 2, by a subscriber, and the editorial remarks thereon, I resolved to respond, and procure you seven names, and remit five dollars "right early;" but your indefatigable friend, Mr. J. M. GRANDIN has supplied my place; and, indeed, has not only obtained seven, but more than three times that number of subscribers coming to Jefferson post office. I would that he might get seventy and seven in our rich valley. Let me give it as my humble opinion, that the Cabinet will do good in Frederick and the two adjoining counties, Carroll and Washington, (Montgomery also,) as they are superlatively fine sections of Maryland. I know you will be cheered, and your subscribers in general, when I say to you that most of the intelligent farmers in Carroll and Frederick counties, are on your list. Query, Is it not so in all portions of the country where patrons have been solicited? Should not this fact inspire every farmer with increasing interest and energy in the travels of your little sheet? But facts:

1. It is a fact, that, previous to my taking the Cabinet, I did not know that the *Sugar Beet* had ever been tried, or would grow in this country.

2. It is a fact, that I was induced, by the description, time of planting, mode of cultivation, and promise of success, which I found first in the Cabinet, to try it.

3. It is a fact, that, in doing so, I followed the directions (or "theory") of the Cabinet *precisely.*

Well, sir, you ask what was the result? I say good.

4. It is a fact, that, of the *sixteenth part of one acre,* I raised sixty bushels of this beautiful beet, and these I would not have sold from my cows for twenty-five cents per bushel; hence, they were worth to me, $15 00. At the same rate, *one acre* would have been worth $240 00. Here, then, sir, is another fact, viz: That ocular demonstration proves that the theory of the Cabinet, in one respect at least, is worth to every farmer, more than $5 00 per year; and those who do not see it must be blind indeed. But some of my neighbors are laughing at my experiment this year, attributing the apparent failure of my beet crop to the beet itself, as being unsuitable for the climate and soil, instead of a remarkably dry season. Now, Mr. Cabinet, have not I as good a right to laugh at them for experimenting on corn this year? They have no crops, some not one barrel to the acre. What is the reason? Is the fault in the corn itself? Is it unsuitable for the climate and soil? Have they been negligent in tending it? If so, then the truth of Holy Writ will be well-nigh demonstrated; "The sluggard shall beg in harvest, and have nothing." Or, is the canker-worm in the weather? Here, then, is the reason why sugar beets are not better this year. Notwithstanding, sir, my beet crop is five times as good as the best corn I have seen growing on the same ground. I mention these things in my plain, simple style,* in order to prove that an agricultural paper may be very valuable, not only to me, but to all who have eyes to see through a dollar at the best interest for one year. As "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," I hope

All, at last, will "taste and see"
At the end of the year, what the profits will be

Yours, respectfully,
CHRISTIAN TABLER.

Jefferson P. O., Fred. Co., Md.
August 16th, 1838.

It is a good plan to teach children to prepare and plait straw for their own bonnets, and their brothers' hats.

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*The plainer the better, more easily understood, and more acceptable.—We like the plain farmer style.

Communicated for the Farmers' Cabinet.

A RASP,

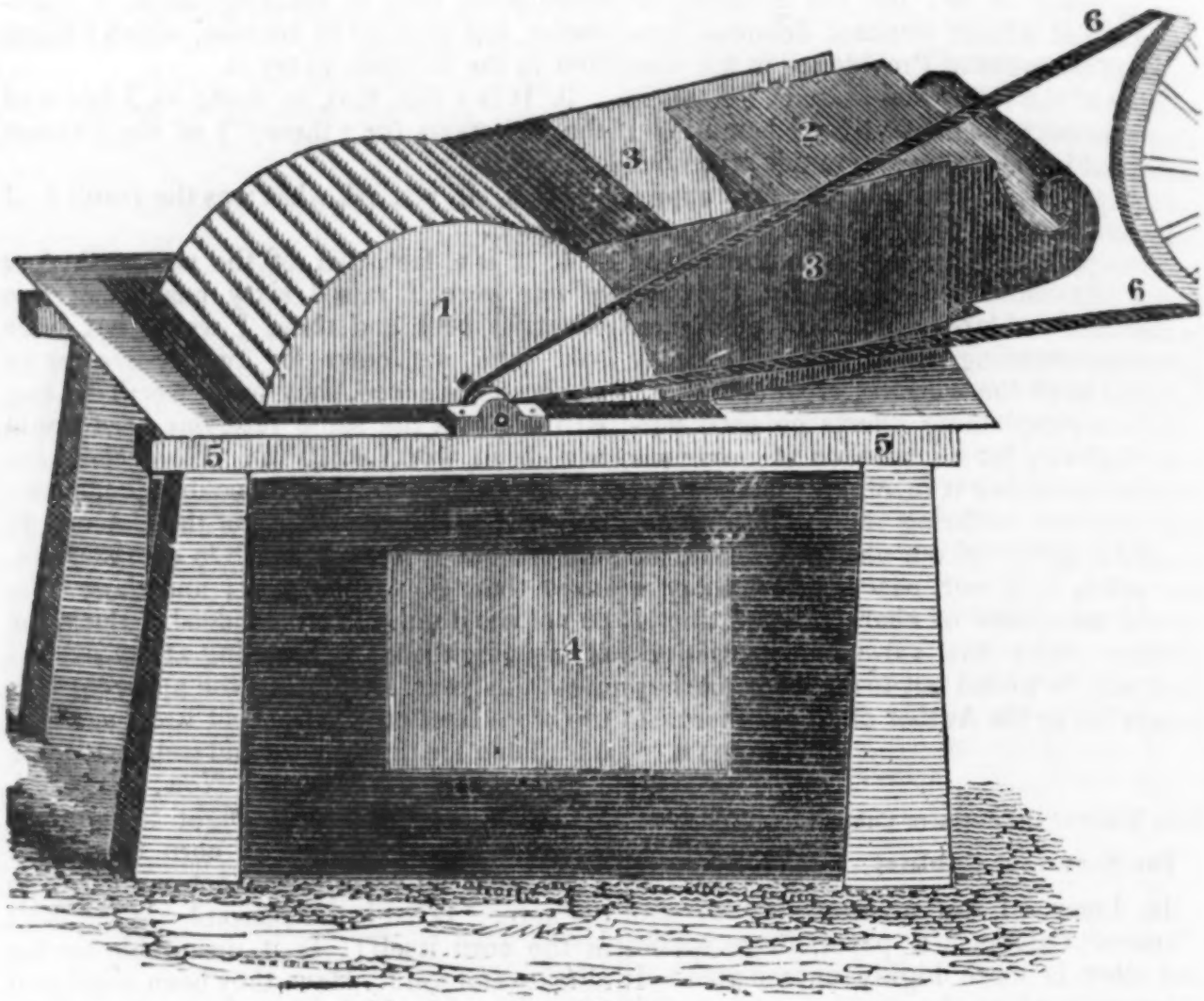

Fig. 10.

In universal use for the purpose of crushing the beet roots throughout the sugar making districts of France. It is put in motion either by steam, water, horse, or hand power, and if propelled at the rate of 800 revolutions, makes 64,000 cuts in a minute. Excellent, too, for crushing apples for the making of cider; or potatoes for starch making.

REFERENCES.

Fig. 1. The rasp, containing eighty saws, half an inch apart. 2. The plunger, by which the articles are forced down to the saws, and kept there while crushing. 3. The box to contain the articles to be crushed. 4. The opening in the receiving box by which the articles, when crushed, are taken out by a wooden, copper, or tin shovel, (not iron,) to be placed in cloths for pressing. 5. The frame, or table. 6. The strap by which it is propelled. ☞ The frame should be made very strong and firm.

In fixing the machine, great care must be taken to do it very securely, as the friction during the operation of crushing, is very great. J. P.

J. P. has had one of the rasping machines, above described, made for the examination of farmers, and has kindly left it at the office of the Farmers' Cabinet for inspection. It is an admirable article—can be used for various purposes, occupies but little room, and costs but a trifle, compared with its value to the agriculturist. For crushing apples for cider it is invaluable—and the entire apparatus for the pressing of the beet, will answer equally well for the pressing of the apple pomace. We are also of opinion that farmers would find it highly advantageous for crushing roots, which, mixed with cut straw, with the addition of a little Indian meal, would form a most palatable, cheap, and nutritious food for stock—especially neat cattle. The cost, we think, would not exceed twenty-five dollars. Farmers, call and examine for yourselves.

There is no *sure* way of getting money but by industry; and no way of keeping it, so as to grow rich, but by economy. The foundation of great fortunes are all to be traced to *small beginnings*, *small profits*, and frugal expenditures.

To be *frugal* is not of itself sufficient; the young man who would insure his success, must be *industrious* too; what is saved by thrift must be improved by diligence, for the last doubles the first.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Remedy for Short Crops.

People thrive by *action*, and not by *grumbling* and *complaining*.

The excessive drought has so diminished the pasturage in some neighborhoods, as to render it necessary to resort to feeding stock with fodder, and if it should continue, many more will be under the necessity of resorting to it. If so, or if the season for feeding should be much prolonged, which looks probable, economy and good management will become necessary, otherwise much suffering will result. In order as much as possible to avert this state of things, let every farmer cut all the *hay, straw*, and *cornfodder* given to his stock, and wet or moisten it before it is fed. Much will be saved by this simple process, as will soon be discovered by making trial of it. An excellent farmer has been doing it for some weeks past with manifest advantage.—Let all the grain fed to your stock be first *boiled* or *steamed*. It is much better for having the heat applied gradually, and for a long time; eight or ten hours is better than a shorter time. It will double the bulk of the grain, and from experiment, it is believed that one bushel of the cooked grain, goes as far as a bushel of the raw; if so, one-half is saved by the process, abating labor and expense. If your boys should demur at the labor, or show by their looks or their mutterings, that they are too lazy to save a penny, hire a hand at once to attend to it properly, and turn them out to hunt pasture for themselves, and let them try the experiment of getting a living by growling and complaining, and despising industrious, economical habits. They may do for steam doctors, but they are not the stuff of which *thriving farmers* can be made.

Let us be up, and doing,
That what we do, may be done quickly.

DELAWARE.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Ice and Ice Houses.

In answer to your request for information as to the best plan of building ice houses, I will merely inform you that I have an ice house that has been used by my family for about fifty years, and has never failed to preserve an abundance of ice for our supplies.—It is about 16 by 12 feet, and judging from recollection, for it is now nearly half full, is about 16 feet deep. It was probably dug down to the sand or gravel, is walled like an ordinary cellar, the wall extending about three feet above the level of the adjacent ground, and earth thrown against it nearly to the roof. This serves to preserve a uniform temperature, and prevents leakage from rain, &c. The bottom of the cellar is supplied with pieces of timber, say 8 by 8 inches thick, which are placed about 6 inches apart, and this protects the ice from the influence of the earth below. When the ice is being put in I take care to have the bottom and sides well provided with clean rye straw, and have the ice occasionally broken fine, and when the house is full I have it well covered up with the same material. This is all that is necessary to be particular about, as the straw is a non-conductor of caloric, and the ice being well embeded therein does not melt in the warmest weather. Many years ago this house was lined with boards which was only useful as a harbor for rats. The lining gradually decayed and has long since been removed, and still the ice is kept as well as ever. Give your ice a dry cellar and plenty of rye straw, and rest assured you will require neither tan nor pulverized charcoal, nor boards to keep it cool.

A PHILA. CO. FARMER.

Sept'r. 3d, 1838.

Farmers' Work for October,

ON THE FARM.

This is a month, as every good farmer knows, in which all our energies should be put forth, for besides saving that which we have already made, much must be done to lay the ground work of next year's crops; and with a view of bringing its appropriate labors to the notice of our readers, we will endeavor briefly to detail them.

FALL PLOUGHING.

As opportunity presents itself, all stiff, clayey grounds intended for spring culture, should be ploughed up this and the ensuing month. By ploughing 7 inches deep and taking furrows 9 inches wide, the furrows will be laid at an angle of about 45 degrees, the best possible position at which ground can be laid to receive the greatest amount of benefit from the fertilizing effects of winter frosts and snows. Grounds thus treated are always infinitely better suited to the purposes of spring culture than if left untouched. But besides the advantages arising from the mellowing effects of the weather, much less work will have to be done in the spring when *time* is valuable.

GATHERING OF CORN

If your corn is sufficiently hardened, it should be got in the latter end of this month: by so doing you save much from the ravages of crows and those animals that prey upon the corn fields, and in addition to this you are enabled to turn your *stock* into your corn-fields at a time before vegetation is destroyed, and thus by the time winter comes on they are put in good condition to enter upon the rigors of that inclement and pinching season of the year, a thing that every husbandman should

have an eye to; for if at the commencement of the foddering season they be in good plight, the probability of their going well through that critical and trying period will be infinitely greater.

GATHERING AND CURING FODDER AND TOPS.

No time should be lost in gathering your blades and tops, and recollect that as soon as they are *dry* they should be brought in from the field and placed out of the weather. By protecting them from rain you add greatly to their intrinsic value as provender, besides rendering them much more palatable to your stock of all kinds.

GATHERING AND PRESERVING POTATOES.

As soon as your potatoes are fit for digging, take them up, and be sure to put them *away with as little exposure to the sun as possible, and care should be taken to bruise them as little as possible.*

TURNEPS.

By stirring the earth around your turneps early this month, you will add much to their growth and increase their product.

BEETS, PARSNIPS, CARROTS.

These roots should all be taken up and put away this month.

PUMPKINS.

As your pumpkins ripen, gather them and put them away in a dry warm room. It is important that they be housed before being exposed to the frost of the field.

BUCKWHEAT.

As you cut your buckwheat put it into sheaves,—these must be set up in the field, and after a day or two bring them in and thresh them out immediately. The sooner this latter work is done the better, as the grain will thresh off much easier and with a great deal less loss. After your straw is threshed stack it away carefully, taking the precaution to salt each layer of it.—If you do so, in mid-winter when your provender is most wanted, it will afford you an excellent resource for your milch cows, the which will eat it with avidity, and to which it will prove a highly nutritious food if it has been properly cured.

WHEAT AND RYE.

Those who have not sown their wheat and rye should get it in as early as possible; but no one should think of sowing either without first steeping the seed in strong *brine* or *ley*, and rolling it in *lime*, or *ashes*.

HOGS.

As soon as the range in which your hogs may be running ceases to be a *pasture*, put them up, and if you design commencing your feeding with *pumpkins*, boil them, as by so doing you not only render them more nutritious by concentrating the saccharine matter, but by destroying the vegetable acid you deprive them of the power of scouring your hogs, a thing always to be avoided if possible. Once a week while your hogs are fattening, throw either rotten wood or charcoal in to them.—Either will correct the acidity upon their stomachs, and keep them to their appetites.

CORN HUSKS AND SHUCKS.

These should be stacked away with alternate layers of hay and straw, and be well sprinkled with salt. By taking this precaution you will find that their value as winter food will be greatly enhanced, and that your cattle will eat them as readily as they do their hay, and if they be not so nutritious, they will be found to be good, strong, substantial winter food.

CABBAGES.

Towards the latter end of this month put away your cabbages: be sure to do it before the frost injures them, and they will keep much better.—*Farmer and Gardener.*

Planting Apple and Pear Trees.

Which is best, to plant apple and pear trees where they are to stand, and form orchards, or to plant them in a nursery, and then transplant?

We suppose that our friends, who have large nurseries, would recommend the latter, but we are more than half inclined to believe that the system of planting the seed where the tree is to remain, is best. We know many trees that have sprung up spontaneously in pastures and by the sides of fences. They usually make hardy, thrifty trees, while some that have been transplanted are tender, and seem to be continually subject to some ill or other. They can be engrafted after they obtain sufficient size.

Again, we know of several pear trees that have sprung up in this way, that are perfectly hardy; not at all affected with the blight, and are great bearers. We merely suggest these things to elicit information, not supposing that our observations have been sufficiently extensive to establish any facts in the case.—*Maine Farmer.*

Time is money. For this reason, cheap as stockings are, it is good economy to knit them. Stockings that are knit wear much longer than those that are wove; and they can be done at odd minutes of time, which would otherwise be lost.

What cannot be done by one stroke, may be effected by many; and application and perseverance have often succeeded when all other means have failed.

Fire Insurance.

This very important subject is beginning to excite considerable attention. In a previous number we published an essay from one of our valued correspondents, setting forth the objects of associations making good to those concerned, the loss sustained by fire, the cost of insurance, and urging it upon those who had neglected this cheap precautionary means, to avail themselves forthwith of the privilege afforded them. We were not aware until after the publication of that article that so many dwellings and farm buildings, always exposed to destruction by fire, were uninsured in this region. We had the satisfaction, however, of knowing that the minds of some were "stirred up," and that as a consequence a number of buildings previously exposed are now covered by insurance.

Our present number contains two articles on this subject, both of them from worthy and highly intelligent correspondents. We think the proposition to indemnify for loss by fire by means of a county tax, liable to serious objections. It would render it imperative, and not leave it where it now stands, optional with property holders. It would deny the privilege to those who saw fit to become their own insurers—and there are many such in this country. The plan of "Observer" is, perhaps, less objectionable, as it is voluntary on the part of those constituting the neighborhood association. We are of the opinion that insurance effected according to the proposal of our correspondent, (see second volume of Farmers' Cabinet, pages 259–60,) is safe for both the *insured* and the *insurer*. It certainly is *cheap enough*; and after the expenditure in the outset for survey, &c., the only cost to the insured is the annual interest of the amount deposited, which deposit is simply the amount of interest for one year on the sum insured. Accordingly we find that any person, when he retires from the association, may withdraw his deposit, subject to a reduction of three per cent. on the amount. A large portion of the fire insurance companies of this country are *mutual*, from which no dividends are made, while those that make dividends make them on the *stock* which has been subscribed and paid in to constitute a fund to secure the insured against loss under any circumstances, and we are not apprized of any cases where the dividends have exceeded a fair remuneration for the capital put in jeopardy. In New York millions of capital have been sunk, and so in Charleston. In this city the first company instituted lost all.

We think that "Observer" is rather severe on the insurance companies. We dissent entirely from his classification. We are as much opposed as our esteemed correspondent to speculation and its attendant contaminating influences. We regard insurance companies, when properly managed, and especially mutual associations, as of great public utility. They afford to those who have not the ability to underwrite themselves, the opportunity of saving from loss at a small expense. There is, in our judgment, a great and essential difference between these associations and *lotteries*, and consequently between those who embark in each. The one pays a fair equivalent to guard *against* loss—the other makes his investment for the purposes of *gain*. The one who insures his property has *something to lose*, while the man who purchases a lottery ticket has, generally, *nothing*, and takes that to which his wife, his suffering children, or his creditors are entitled. All good men are for putting down lotteries as public nuisances, by which many are led on to ruin—and yet we find the same men, men of unimpeachable character and purity of motive, uniting in sustaining insurance offices.

Our correspondents do not differ, it will be seen, as to the necessity of insurance, only as to the detail. One contends that it is very cheap, while the other insists that the rate is too high. Now both are no doubt influenced by a desire to promote the public good. The correspondent, whose remarks elicited the reply of "Observer," is not a stockholder in any insurance company making a dividend—he is not a speculator. On the contrary, speculation is as repugnant to his sense of moral propriety as it is to "Observer." Thus much for our correspondents, and now one word to farmers on the subject. Get your houses and barns forthwith insured. Your minds will be more at rest from the mere circumstance of having your property covered against loss. If you live in the neighborhood of an association lose not a day in attending to this matter—it is of great importance. If there is no institution within your reach, bestir yourselves, organize one forthwith, either on the plan proposed by "Observer," or on that adopted by those mutual associations now existing.

One individual who is methodical in his business can, with ease, perform the work of four men who set order and regularity at defiance.

Let no temptation of gain on the one hand, or any embarrassment on the other, ever lead you to swerve from the path of strict honesty and integrity.

The consideration which many purchase by living beyond their income, and of course living upon others, is not worth the trouble it costs.

☞ A number of articles, among them several communications of interest, are necessarily deferred until our next.

By an error of the press our number for August was set down as 44; it should have been 43. The present number, 44, is correct.

1st month,	2.20
2d month,	2.19
3d month,	3.17
4th month,	3.58
5th month,	3.57
6th month,	6.60
7th month,	2.37
8th month,	2.78

Philadelphia, Sept. 1, 1838.

☞ The regular monthly meeting of the Horticultural Society, will be held at the usual place, on Tuesday evening, the 18th instant.

The meeting of the Agricultural Society will be held in the Philosophical Hall, in Fifth street, below Chesnut, on Wednesday morning, 19th inst., at 11 o'clock.

The Markets.

Philadelphia, September 10.

Grain.—Wheat maintains former rates, with moderate supplies. Sales of several parcels at from $1 55 to $1 60 for fair to good quality, some prime Pennsylvania $1 62½ per bushel. Rye—No sales for some weeks past, and no fixed price. Corn—owing to limited supplies, prices have again advanced—sales at 88 to 90 cents early in the week; since at 91 cents for good flat yellow. Oats are stationary—considerable sales of Southern afloat at 40 to 38 cents.

Flour and Meal.—The supplies of Flour coming in are not equal to the demand. This deficiency is caused by the unusual and long continued drought which has prevented the number of mills from grinding. Sales of fair to good brands, fresh ground Flour at $7 50—extra, $7 62½ a $7 75. Sales for export at $7 50 early in the week. To-day holders demand higher prices. Old stock has sold at from $5 50 to 6 62½, according to quality. Stock greatly reduced. Rye Flour, demand still limited—small sales at $4 75, occasionally $4 50. Corn Meal, sales in barrels at $3 75.

Oils.—Fish Oils have sold very freely, and the stock has become light, particularly of winter Sperm—prices have not varied. Large sales of Linseed at 84 cents per gall. for American and English, the latter on time. Plaster—Cargo sales at $3 87½ per ton. Provisions—The stock of Bacon Pork and Lard are now very light, and prices have again advanced. We quote mess Pork at $23 50 to 25 00; prime, $17 50 a 18 00 per barrel. Hams 12 to 14 cents; sides 11 a 11½, and shoulders 9½ a 10 cents per lb. Lard is held at 12 a 13 cents.

Cattle.—Supplies of Beef Cattle limited, and prices steady at $7 50 to 8 50 per cwt. Cows and Calves are also stationary in price. Hogs sell at from $6 75 to to $7 00 per cwt. Sheep $1 25 to $3 00 per head.

Country Produce of all kinds in demand, and prices high.

New York, September 10.

Genesee Flour has advanced to $7 87 a 8 00, for common brands; the best brands of Ohio, $7 87 a 8 00; Georgetown, new, has sold at $7 75; best is now held at $9 00. Rye Flour is dull at $4 75. Corn Meal $3 75. Several lots foreign wheat have been sold at $1 55 a $1 60. Rye has brought 98 a $1 00. Northern oats 44 cents; 2500 bushels northern corn sold at 90 cents, and southern at the same price.

Asses.---Straw Cutters.

The Subscriber has for sale the following very superior Asses, at prices much lower than usual for animals of their quality.

The great Jack Goliah of extraordinary size and value, being little, if any, less than 14 hands high, nine years old, very stout and heavy, of fine action, is every thing that can be desired, both as a coverer and stock-getter. He is a lineal descendant of General Washington's celebrated "*Compound.*"

Oceola, imported from Malta by an officer of the U. S Navy in 1833, then two years old, is thirteen hands two inches high, and a most beautiful and perfect animal. As a coverer and stock-getter, he has no superior.

Sub-Treasury, an American bred Jack from Maltese stock, is four years old, 13 hands high, (*and growing fast,*) is proved as a ready and vigorous coverer, and his mules are very promising.

Four very superior Jennets, all of middle age, large size, and proved as excellent breeders, are also for sale. All these animals are without trick or vice. Further particulars will be communicated on application (post paid,) to

I. I. HITCHCOCK,
Agricultural Agent, Philadelphia, Pa.

Who keeps for sale, as heretofore, GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER, unquestionably the best instrument of its kind yet invented. It cuts easily two bushels a minute, and that by the strength of a mere boy. It is not easily broken or deranged; requires grinding seldom, is very compact, being only 3½ feet long, 3 feet high, and two feet wide, weight 150 pounds. The machine, with twelve knives, cuts feed about ½ inch long,—price $32; that with eighteen knives cuts it about ¾ of an inch long,—price $40. It will be carefully packed and sent to order, payment being made, or provided for in this city.

100,000 Cuttings of the Morus Multicaulis For Sale.

The Chester Silk Company will have for sale, late this fall, or early next spring, 100,000 Cuttings of the Morus Multicaulus. Application to be made to George B. Westcott, Treasurer of the Company, at Chestertown, Kent county, Maryland.

THE FARMERS' CABINET,

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